

Controversial power bill sparks heated debate

STORY
ON PAGE A2

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IN **SaturdaySPECIAL**



Why it's hard to make
Janno Gibbs laugh
The new Kims
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Hannibal Lecter is
back for another feast
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Oscar race for Best Picture

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Party over for other bets for AFP top post?

BY CARLITO PABLO AND ARMAND NOCUM

WAS IT a "victory ball" for the next Armed Forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa? Or, was it just a thanksgiving party for him and the military men who were working behind the scenes from the start of the campaign to oust Joseph Estrada?

PARTY/A5

Velarde account leads to perjury —Desierto

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC
AND CATHY YAMSUAN

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman is now fully convinced that Jose Velarde and ousted President Joseph Estrada "are one and the same person."

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto yesterday said the Velarde account could now be considered evidence in a perjury case against Estrada.

Desierto told the *INQUIRER* that the disgraced former President used Jose Velarde as an alias to hide his wealth, including deposits in several bank accounts and pieces of prime real estate property.

Desierto came up with the conclusion after the Ombudsman Special Preliminary Investigation Panel found "prima facie" evidence to establish that Velarde's P3.2-billion account with Equitable PCI Bank belonged to Estrada.

After studying bank documents turned over by the Senate on Feb. 14, the special panel headed by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito P. Gervacio found convincing proof that Estrada owned the Velarde account.

Desierto, however, could not
VELARDE/A18

Raps filed vs Pineda next week

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ
AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

RESPONDING to a challenge aired Thursday by the group Sanlakas, Interior Secretary Joey Lina yesterday said his department would formally file a complaint next week against alleged gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda before the Department of Justice.

Lina said it would be up to the DOJ to determine the appropriate charges to be filed against Pineda based on the evidence and testimony of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and his two employees, Emma Lim and Marichu Ilichon.

Singson identified him as among the biggest gambling lords in the country during the Senate blue ribbon committee's hearings on the "Juettengate" scandal and the deposed Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial.

Pineda is said to be a family friend of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We want to send a strong message that we are serious and we mean business in this renewed campaign against all forms of illegal gambling, especially 'juetteng,' un-

RAPS/A18

Erap's fate hangs on 13 SC justices



ROMY HOMILLADA/DENNIS SABANGAN

Unlucky number hounding him anew

BY ROCKY NAZARENO,
ARMAND NOCUM
AND ALCUIN PAPA

JOSEPH Estrada is down and out, and his fate as a deposed President will be sealed by the last of the unlucky 13s that have plagued his short-lived stay in the Palace.

This view was aired yesterday by Malacañang officials and the Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership (or Clamor), which noted that with Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Justice Artemio Panganiban inhibiting themselves from hearing Estrada's complaint that President Macapagal-Arroyo took power illegally, the 15-member Supreme Court is down to 13 justices who will make the decision.

"They threw punches that ended up on their faces," Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said of the oral arguments presented Thursday by Estrada's lawyers, former Sen. Rene Saguisag and law dean Pacifico Agabin.

According to Clamor head convenor Dennis Funa, the ousted President who is known to dread the number 13 "has now placed his fate in the hands of 13 Supreme Court justices."

Funa said there appeared to be grounds for Estrada to fear the number 13 because "it proved unlucky

ERAP/S/A18

TALE OF 2 EX- FIRST LADIES

First taste of politics for Dr. Loi Ejercito (above) who campaigns in Pasay City on Friday with four other opposition candidates (Enrile, Puno, Madrigal, Tamano) under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Pwersa ng Masa party. In her speech, the former first lady says she's no politician but wants to continue her work of helping the poor. First shoe museum in the country (at left) is formally opened by who else than the Shoe Lady herself, Imelda Marcos, in San Roque, Marikina City. On exhibit are Imelda's shoes which once occupied a whole basement in Malacañang.



Pacificador acquitted in massacre

BY HAZEL P. VILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—A Regional Trial Court yesterday acquitted former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador in the killing of seven supporters of his political rival, the late Gov. Evelio Javier, on the eve of the 1984 Batasang Pambansa elections in Sibalom town here.

Judge Nery Duremdes of RTC Branch 11 said the prosecution failed to establish beyond reasonable doubt that there was a conspiracy between Pacificador and his security men to kill Javier's supporters.

However, Pacificador, a close ally of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, will remain in detention at the provincial jail here. He still will

PACIFICADOR/A18

'WALANG IWANAN' Estrada bets vow to stand by him

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL,
NORMAN BORDADORA
AND GERALD LACUARTA

"WALANG IWANAN. Ipaglaban ang kaibigan (We don't abandon a friend, we support him)."

This was the theme of the speeches of five senatorial candidates of the opposition party Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Pwersa ng Masa on their first sortie in Pasay City yesterday.

They were referring to ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The five were Sen. Juan Ponce

Enrile, former First Lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, Ma. Ana Consuela "Jamby" Madrigal, Umbra Tamano and former Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno. They were met by an "ati-atihan" band. The day before, the LDP candidates visited the Baclaran market.

"We won't abandon a friend. We'll fight for him. We'll continue the fight through ballots, not violence," Enrile, who spoke first, told a crowd at the Pasay City Hall in Filipino.

Enrile ask the crowd to vote for
ESTRADA/A17



Poster rule may disqualify all candidates

BY GERALD LACUARTA

IF THE Commission on Elections makes good its threat, then there would probably be no more senatorial candidates left by the time the elections are held in May.

The Comelec yesterday warned senatorial candidates, party-list groups and their supporters against indiscriminately putting up posters outside designated

POSTER/A17



PACIFICADOR in Antique court: Between approving applause and walls of grief. Next case: The murder of Evelio Javier.



Second FRONT PAGE

WHO BENEFIT THE MOST?

Power bill sparks heated debate

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA

A PUBLIC consultative meeting on the controversial power restructuring bill at the Senate yesterday sparked a three-way exchange of accusations between members of civil society and Senators John and Sergio Osmeña III.

"Who do the politicians in Congress and in the Executive branch want to empower as a result of this (power) bill: the Lopezzes, Aboitizes, Alcantaras, the energy multinational corporations or the millions of ordinary subscribers and users of power?" thundered Maitet Diokno-Pascual, president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

Pascual and Walden Bello of the Akbayan partylist group claimed that the bill, which seeks to privatize the National Power Corp. and restructure the power industry, was being rammed through the Senate by "family connections" to enable the Lopez Group to monopolize the power industry.

Ties that bind

The statement was apparently directed at the Osmeña cousins. John is chair and Sergio a member of the Senate energy committee.

Sergio is married to a member of the Lopez clan which owns, among other firms, the Manila Electric Company, the giant electricity distributor.

John's sister is married to Luis Aboitiz, whose family is also a major player in the power sector as well as being involved in shipping and transport, banking and financial services, real estate development, food and other manufacturing concerns.

The Aboitiz Group, whose energy ventures stretches from Benguet in the north to Davao in the south, owns Visayan Electric Co., the country's second largest electricity distributor, and Davao Light and Power Co., the third largest.

'Open secret'

Another oppositor to the bill said it was an "open secret" that the Osmeña cousins have a vested interest in the measure which Congress has been deliberating on for more than five years.

Sergio sputtered in Pascual's direction: "My gosh! What do you think? We're promoting narrow vested interests here? ... It's too broad, too sweeping (an accusation)."

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He suggested the charges were probably directed at his cousin, John.

"I will not let that pass," said John, when Pascual pointed out that the power bill was "tainted with corruption." She cited the P500,000 in bribe money that allegedly went to each member of the House to pass the Omnibus Power Bill last year.

"In the first place, the *payola* (scam) was under the leadership of the Speaker of the people, Manuel Villar. And the one who distributed it is the current Speaker (Feliciano Belmonte). So if there is corruption, it's on your side, not ours," John said.

Pascual retorted that the House energy committee at the time of the scam was Arnulfo Fuentebella, the former Speaker allied with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Pascual said the pending measure was "highly favorable to the Lopez family" because it allows cross-ownership between generation and distribution companies.

Lopez monopoly

"At present, the Lopezzes already control 60 percent of the national market through Meralco while having a significant share in the generation sector through its independent power producers," she said. "The bill's approval would allow the Lopezzes to further expand their empire in the industry."

She said that by allowing power distribution utilities to recover "stranded" costs, Meralco, which has the biggest number of independent power supply contracts, would benefit most from the measure.

Bello said civil society groups fear that the power measure would be railroaded in the Senate. He said that while the sector was consulted, its concerns were "conveniently swept aside or inadequately addressed."

"No doubt this was due to the successful and powerful lobby of business with vested interests. Through the *payola* in the lower House and the unmistakable family connections at the Senate, the result is a flawed Estrada bill especially crafted for special interests, the Lopez Group in particular," Bello said.

It was an apparent reference to the marriage of Estrada's daughter in 1999 to a Lopez scion.

GMA under fire, too

Nor was President Macapagal-Arroyo spared Bello's ire for her alleged "flip-flopping" on the power bill.

Bello said that four days after she was installed through Edsa II, the President promised that her administration would not hasten the passage of the power measure and would have it reviewed for its "onerous provisions."

But he said Ms Macapagal changed her mind after attending a meeting of the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council where John Osmeña and other House and Senate leaders were present.

Though it had approved a report reconciling the House and Senate versions, the bicameral conference committee on the power bill was forced to conduct new public consultations with civil society groups and power

stakeholders because of the President's directive.

The public hearing yesterday began at 9:30 a.m. and ended at 4 p.m.

In a power-point presentation, Pascual said the bill in its present form was objectionable because it would breed more corruption and enforce monopoly.

"The more intense the monopoly, the more corruption there is," she said, adding that corruption is a big factor in the high electricity prices and heavy fiscal burden of the government.

She gave this formula: Monopoly plus discretion minus accountability equals corruption.

Pascual gave seven reasons why the power bill was unacceptable, chiefly of which was corruption and monopoly.

'Stop yakking'

"That (monopoly) is a reality of life. If Etta Rosales has the money to buy Meralco, I will support her. But if you do not have the money, then stop yakking," John said.

"I fully agree with you in your formula of corruption. The monopoly of power in Imperial Manila is the biggest source of corruption. As Jesus Christ said, let he who has no sin throw the first stone," he said.

Sergio Osmeña said that there was nothing to prohibit those with money to put up generating plants or transmission companies.

"This is not a communist system. This is a free-enterprise system," Sergio said.

Bello said the lopsided power bill should not be signed into law.

"The new administration cannot pass this bill without compromising its integrity. Given its major flaws, the bill must be sent back for thorough criticism by civil society and review by the (incoming) 12th Congress," Bello said.

But John Osmeña said the bill should be passed and immediately signed into law because it would mean at least \$300 million in loans from Asian Development Bank and would "send the right signal to the international community."

Sergio said non-passage of the power bill now would mean a power crisis in 2004 or 2005. This expected power crisis, he said, would deter foreign investors from coming in now.

John said the bicameral committee would finalize its new report and after it is ratified, will submit it to the President for signing into law.

"If she wants to veto it, it's up to her," Osmeña said. He warned that if the power bill is not ratified when the 11th Congress resumes for four days in June, "the bill is dead and we will have to start all over again."

A major issue that has bogged down deliberations on the bill is the government's assumption of Napocor's debt.

Results of a study conducted by the foreign Credit Suisse First Boston/Arthur Andersen showed that the expected privatization proceeds would amount to \$4.5 billion to \$5.2 billion. But because of the huge debt, Napocor would end up with a shortfall of \$9.5 billion to \$10.5 billion.

Lepeng Wee denies owning toxic goods

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada's former adviser on Mindanao affairs Lepeng Wee yesterday denied ownership of 39 drums of toxic chemicals that were imported through Zamboanga City last year.

Wee showed the INQUIRER a shipping order issued in Sandakan, Malaysia, and a declaration of goods from the Royal Malaysian Customs and Excise Department pertaining to the cargo, with none of the documents bearing his name.

An integrated import document from the Sabah Ports Authority showed the consignees of the contraband cargo to be Malaysians Ang Ben Eang and Tan Ngee Foo, while the shipper of the hazardous chemicals was identified as the Sandakan Foam Sdn. Bhd.

"As you can see, I have no involvement with the shipment. I am just disappointed with the DENR for drawing its conclusion without even checking the pertinent shipping documents," Wee said.

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources had identified Wee as the consignee of the contraband shipment based on three bills of lading for the cargo which reportedly had his name on them.

The papers had purportedly also identified Wee as the shipper of the drums.

Philippine law is strict on the entry and transport of toxic chemicals in the country.

According to Wee, the EMB simply based its findings on records of a local shipper and the Bureau of Customs office in Zamboanga City.

"The bills of lading they were citing were in fact produced only two weeks after the drums were confiscated," he said. "They are fabricated documents."

Acting DENR Secretary Joemari Gerochi said Wee, the Malaysians Ang and Tan and a Nancy Lim will be charged with violating Republic Act 6969, or the Toxic Substance and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act.

The chemicals were reportedly for a foam making company that

had yet to be built.

In the Malaysian customs permit, Ang had described the drums as containing chemicals to be used in the manufacture of "household furniture."

Yesterday, Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera and party list group Bayan Muna urged the administration to press charges against Wee in connection with the importation of the toxic chemicals.

"The importation of these chemicals, by itself, is an act that has far-reaching implications on our fragile environment," Herrera said. "I think it is incumbent upon the DENR to fully investigate the matter and press charges."

In a separate statement, Bayan Muna chair Dr. Reynaldo Lesaca said Wee used his position as a presidential adviser to bring hazardous chemicals into the country.

He said former DENR secretary Antonio Cerilles should also be made to explain why his department allowed Wee to bring in the toxic substances.

The chemicals in the drums included methylene chloride, polymer polynol, Ornate 80, Forane and trichlorofluoromethane, all of which are highly toxic and are banned under RA 6969.

"These toxic substances, in case of leaks, could cause disease, serious injury and death among the people as well as destroy the environment," Lesaca said.

Wee charged that his involvement in the controversy was a ploy engineered by his political enemies, Zamboanga City Mayor Clara Lobregat and her son, Rep. Celso Lobregat.

"This is nothing but political maneuverings. Gerochi should not allow his office to be used for political reasons," he said, accusing the Lobregats of putting the DENR up to the investigation after they learned he was planning to challenge Mrs. Lobregat for the mayorship in the coming elections.

Celso Lobregat denied Wee's allegations, saying his family could not possibly have influence over the DENR and the Bureau of Customs. With Gerald G. Lacuarta

PMAer's death no suicide—NBI

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has ruled out suicide in the death of a female graduate of the Philippine Military Academy at Fort Bonifacio, Makati, on Feb. 9.

Dr. Maximo Reyes, chief of the NBI medico-legal division, said it would have been "very unusual" if 2Lt. Jessica Chavez, 22, a member of PMA Sanghaya Class 2000, had killed herself.

Reyes said a separate NBI autopsy showed Chavez could not have shot herself, contrary to the conclusion drawn by police. "If this was so, it would have been very awkward," he said.

Reyes said the .45-cal. bullet, which killed Chavez entered her chest and exited in her back. "This shows the gun was fired from a distance, definitely not at close range," Reyes said.

"Jessica could have placed her service firearm at her temple or in her mouth. It would have been awkward if she chose to fire at her chest," Reyes said.

Chavez was found dead in her barracks at 7 a.m. that Friday morning at the 191st Military Police battalion of the Philippine Army in Fort Bonifacio.

Reyes also belied claims that Chavez was pregnant. "We checked her uterus and it was clear," he said. Michael Lim Ubac

NAYONG PILIPINO'S ON-THE-SPOT PAINTING CONTEST

The red month of February blends with the vibrant colors of the National Arts Month celebration as the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF) stages an On-the-Spot Painting Contest on February 24-25, 2001 (Saturday and Sunday) at the Galleria Vigan, Nayong Pilipino Park.

With the theme "NAYONG PILIPINO: *Salamin ng Magandang Pilipinas*," this competition is open to all college artists trained in any of the various media: poster color, watercolor, pastel color, oil pastel, and charcoal. Entries will be exhibited at the Galleria Vigan on February 25 to March 11, 2001. Registration is ongoing until February 23, 2001 with a fee of P100.00.

Nayong Pilipino's foremost project of its kind, it provides the youth a venue for their artistic and nationalistic expression in the hope that it will inculcate in them a greater pride of the country's rich heritage.

Also, NPF is inviting all rondalla groups to join the annual "Banduria, Octavina, Gitara Atbp." on March 10 and 17.

"NAYONG PILIPINO: *Salamin ng Magandang Pilipinas*" An On-the-Spot Painting Contest is sponsored by Shakey's Coastal Mall, Land Bank of the Philippines, Cathay Pacific, AMSPEC, and Mernam & Webster Bookstore.

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NEWSBRIEFS

New PCSO chief named

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday appointed Virgilio Angelo, a former vice president of the Bank of Philippine Islands, as chair and general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Angelo replaced former PCSO chair Rosario Lopez. Likewise, Ms Macapagal also appointed Erlinda de Leon as special assistant in the Office of the President. De Leon occupied the same post in the Office of the Vice President.

Capulong replaces Miriam

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo named activist lawyer Romeo Capulong to replace Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago as the country's candidate as judge in a United Nations war crimes tribunal. Ms Macapagal yesterday instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs through Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Jr., concurrent foreign secretary, to nominate Capulong to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Sources said Capulong was on the "short list" of nominees along with Santiago. Capulong expressed elation over his nomination but was apprehensive of his chances because of the short period to campaign for the post. Dona Pazzibugan, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

Alvarez allies hit Nene

A BROAD base of nongovernment organizations yesterday lambasted Senate President Aquilino Pimentel's advocacy of a total log ban as anti-labor, anti-poor and anti-Mindanao. Led by the Earthsavers Movement, the NGOs said that Pimentel's proposal for a 25-year total log ban nationwide would leave tens of thousands of workers in wood-based industries out of work. According to Roger C. Birosel, Earthsavers secretary general, the sustainable logging concept being espoused by Rep. Heherson T. Alvarez is a much better idea than a totalitarian total log ban. He said that it was unfair for Pimentel to block Alvarez's appointment as DENR secretary. He said past experience showed that a total log ban only led to more illegal logging.

Greenpeace welcomes GMA decision on GMO crops

GLOBAL environmental watchdog Greenpeace International yesterday cautiously welcomed the new Philippine government's decision to shun research on genetically-altered crops.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia campaigner Von Hernandez said environmentalists were pleasantly "taken aback" by President Arroyo's policy statement but said this should be complemented with legislation banning the so-called Frankenstein foods.

"We are still checking the basis for the statement, but we definitely welcome that pronouncement that GMO (genetically modified organism) foods will not be allowed during this administration," Hernandez told AFP.

Arroyo last week said her government realized there was a groundswell of opposition to the introduction of GMO crops and foods.

"There is great objection to this from the civil society. So the Philippines will not be initiating of pushing for this experimentation," Arroyo said.

Arroyo's statement was a turnaround from the policy of deposed leader Joseph Estrada, under whose administration several multinational companies were allowed to field test gene-altered corn despite strong opposition by local governments.

Several proposed laws calling for labeling on GMO imported products or their outright ban have been pending in Congress in the past couple of years.

Passage of the bills was repeatedly snagged amid strong lobbying by biotechnology firms and the Estrada administration's policy of enhancing experimentation on transgenic crops.

Modified crops are plants which have had genetic material from other organisms spliced into them to boost their yield or cut production costs for the farmer.

Environmentalists say the modified plants are a potential hazard.

Among the dangers, they say, are that these crops may prove so resilient that they could conquer other plants in their habitat and proliferate unchecked. AFP

Special envoy to Americas defends 'people power'

Extra-constitutional, yes; unconstitutional, no

WASHINGTON—The ouster of Joseph Estrada as Philippine leader last month was "extra-constitutional," but not a violation of the Constitution, a special envoy to the Americas of the new Manila government said on Thursday.

"We admit it was extra-constitutional, but not necessarily unconstitutional," Raul Rabe, special envoy for the Americas and the Organization of Islamic Countries, told a breakfast meeting on Capitol Hill.

"We in the Philippines... while we sort of mirror your constitution and refer to your legal writings... we do have our own history and practices," Rabe told US lawmakers, analysts and journalists.

"And in (last month's) people power, we really reached back into our own history," he said.

The Supreme Court stripped Estrada of his presidency on Jan. 20 after the military, the police and

most of the Cabinet defected and joined hundreds of thousands of people demanding Estrada's removal and condemning the breakdown of a Senate impeachment trial on charges of corruption.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, once Estrada's vice president, was installed within hours.

Filipinos lauded the "people's coup" as another example of the "people power" phenomenon that brought down late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Arroyo's ascendancy was immediately welcomed by the international community including the United States, which said the transfer of power was "in accordance with democratic principles."

Some analysts and media have challenged the democratic and constitutional nature of the transition, however, and lawyers for Estrada himself told the Philippine Supreme Court on Thursday that the overthrow of a democratically elected ruler created a

dangerous precedent.

Estrada has not resigned and is fighting a government investigation into allegations he plundered the economy, on the grounds he enjoys presidential immunity from lawsuits. Economic plunder is punishable by death.

Rabe, in Washington to meet US officials and brief them on the priorities of the new Philippine administration, said there was no question among Filipinos about whether the transition weakened democracy in the country.

"We also have in the constitution provided that all political power resides in the people," he said. The people give a mandate and can also take it away, he said.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a Republican congressman from California who hosted the meeting along with Rabe, told the visiting envoy not to be concerned about criticism.

"Don't worry about crossing the T's and dotting the I's, Rohrabacher said. "Bask in the glory that you have fought... and set the standard again." Reuters

RP-born Canadian exec coming

OTTAWA—Canada's new Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific Rey Pagtakhan said Thursday he will visit the Philippines, Cambodia and Thailand from Feb. 18 to 22.

Philippine-born Pagtakhan, who joined Prime Minister Jean Chretien on his nine-day trade mission to China which is set to conclude Sunday, was appointed to the position last month.

"I am proud to make my first bilateral visit to the Philippines, which is my place of birth. This visit to the Philippines, as well as to Cambodia and Thailand, is intended to assure our partners of Canada's ongoing commitment to political partnership and economic development in the region," he said in a statement.

Pagtakhan will begin his visit in Manila, where he will meet with President

Macapagal-Arroyo and other key figures in the new Philippine administration.

He will travel to Phnom Penh on Wednesday and will participate in a seminar on the transfer of conventional weapons.

The seminar will focus on the UN Conventional Arms Register and on regional efforts to lessen the destructive and destabilizing impact of the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons in the Asia-Pacific region, a statement said.

On the last day of Pagtakhan's trip, he will visit Thailand for meetings with government, business and international organization representatives to discuss domestic and regional economic trends as well as the policy orientations of the new Thai government. AFP

US congressman to visit Manila

US Congressman Bob Filner, a well-known advocate for US and Filipino veterans, is coming to Manila on Feb. 20 to meet with Philippine government officials.

Filner is the author of legislation in the US House of Representatives seeking to restore benefits promised to Filipino veterans of WWII which were rescinded by the US Congress in 1946.

More recently, Filner authored in the US House legislation to ensure that

Filipino veterans who are currently living in the US and receiving supplemental Social Security Income (SSI) can continue to receive 75 percent of their SSI benefits when they return to live in the Philippines.

In recognition of his work on behalf of Filipino veterans, Filner was awarded the Legion of Honor, a prestigious Philippine civilian award, by then President Fidel Ramos.

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Party over for other bets to AFP top post?

(From page A1)

Is the party over for the other serious contenders: AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim and Army commanding general, Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva?

Whatever the reason for the celebration indicates that the race for the post of AFP Chief of Staff is coming to a head.

"If it's any indication of who's going to be the next Chief of Staff, it appears that General Espinosa has it in the bag," said an INQUIRER source who attended the bash held Monday in a private residence in Quezon City.

While his replacement is still a question mark, the outgoing AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes is likely to get the defense portfolio following his mandatory retirement when he turns 56 on March 17.

Presidential spokesperson Renato Corona said that Reyes can be considered a shoo-in for the post.

"The retired chief of staff is always a natural candidate for secretary of national defense," Corona said in a news briefing at the Palace yesterday.

Party

It was presidential spouse, Mike Arroyo, who allegedly fêted Espinosa on the eve of President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement on Tuesday that she was retiring Reyes.

Last night, Mr. Arroyo, through an INQUIRER source, denied that he hosted a party for Espinosa. Reyes' term had been extended by Estrada until 2002 a few days before Estrada's fall from power.

Of the contenders, Espinosa, a member of Class 1967 of the Philippine Military Academy, is the most senior officer next to Reyes, a graduate of PMA Class 1966.

Another source who was also present at the party said that the party proved Espinosa's closeness to the First Family, which translates allegedly to boosting his chance to become the AFP chief, a post whose appointment rests largely on the prerogative of the President.

Warriors

"Espinosa is not new to the First Family. From the beginning (of the campaign to remove Estrada, he was there," the source said.

The celebration held somewhere in Quezon City was attended by about 300 generals, junior officers and enlisted men who were Espinosa's core group that was prepared to openly withdraw military support last Jan. 20.

Calling themselves the "Warriors," having seen combat in the field, the officers who were there represented the four major services in the Armed Forces but they asked that their identities not be divulged.

Preempted

Their withdrawal of support from Estrada was preempted when Reyes, then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and Reyes' staff defected on Jan. 19, the day

before Espinosa was scheduled to march into Edsa.

The Marine general reportedly had troops and armored vehicles from the AFP's Northern Luzon Command, Southern Luzon Command, Marines, the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police and Air Force jets and fighter helicopters.

Espinosa claimed that Reyes made the move ahead of Espinosa when he realized that he no longer had the support of the troops.

Also reportedly present at the party were Ilocos Sur Gov Luis "Chavit" Singson for whom Espinosa provided security when the governor came out last October to expose Estrada's involvement in "jueteng."

Also reportedly invited was Tourism Secretary-designate Richard Gordon, a staunch anti-Estrada partisan.

Both Singson and Gordon have denied being at the party.

"Of course not. That is ridiculous. There is no truth to it," Gordon said of reports that he had met with Mr. Arroyo and about 300 military officers before the President's Monday announcement that she was retiring Reyes.

According to him, he did not even talk to Arroyo and that he was not part of the "inner core" of the Palace.

But the INQUIRER source insisted that there was indeed a party, "a fraternal celebration meant to give thanks to those in the military who actually risked their necks in the events that led to Edsa II," the source said.

The source added that while the appointment of the next AFP chief was not openly discussed, "who will you choose if you were the President?"

If appointed, Espinosa can serve only until August this year when he reaches the retirement age of 56.

But there may be an impediment to his appointment: His still unexplained relief as commander of the Southern Command in February, 2000.

Espinosa was yanked out by Reyes, purportedly on orders allegedly of then President Estrada. He was demoted to commandant of the AFP's Joint Command and Staff College, a post usually held by brigadier generals.

Not so fast

On the other hand, it cannot be said that Reyes is on easy street on the way to the defense post.

In the same briefing, Corona also clarified that it was possible for Reyes not to get the defense portfolio.

"I'm not of course saying that he will be the next secretary of national defense. I'm just saying that he is a natural candidate because of historical precedence," Corona said.

He cited that this was what happened in the case of Gen. Ernesto Mata during the time of President Diosdado Macapagal.

He said the same thing happened to former President Ramos and Executive Secretary Renato de Villa who assumed the post as defense secretary after retiring as AFP chief of staff.

"There are many chiefs of staff who eventually became secretary of national defense. Although that is no guarantee, I'm just saying that he's obviously a natural candidate," he said.

But he said the President has not yet made up her

mind on the candidates for the defense post.

Ermita

He said another strong candidate for the post is acting Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita who also holds the post of national security adviser.

Asked about the criteria for the new defense secretary, he said they must have a good "track record, experience and moral fitness."

He must also be "acceptable to most sectors of society because that's a very important position."

He raised the possibility that the President could name Calimlim, the second highest military official after Reyes. Or, the President could do a "deep selec-

tion" and pick an officer from the 9th or 10th rank.

But in another interview, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa said a deep selection is unlikely.

"I'm not aware that the President is making some kind of a deep selection process," he said, adding that the choice is limited to two- to three-star generals.

Making up mind

The President has not yet made up her mind, Corona reported.

"Any of the top generals can be chosen," he said.

"It is the judgment call of the President. The chief of staff must be one the President fully trusts. Seniority is not the only basis."



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* CONSULTATION FEE *

A TIME TO REMEMBER AND MOVE FORWARD

Today the Christians for National Liberation celebrates its 28th Founding Anniversary. It is a beautiful occasion to gather once more around the Master's bonfire:

to remember ... to give thanks... to be challenged and empowered

We are the ones who had stood side by side at the founding of the community of Christians for National Liberation, or who at onetime or another had gathered in fellowship around the table of CNL, and who to this day have kept carrying on the joyful mission of seeking Christ in the midst of the suffering people.

We wish today to be empowered anew by our long history of struggle, triumph, faithfulness and God's grace in our personal and collective journeys along the Way of Life.

We remember...

when we first opted to listen to God's voice in the cries of the Filipino masses as we preferred to stand side by side with the workers in their fight for just wages, with the urban poor and fisherfolk in asserting their economic rights, with the farmers in their struggle for effective control over the land that they till, and indigenous peoples in protecting their ancestral domains, with overseas workers, women, students and all who seek justice and genuine and lasting peace.

We remember, too...

the marches of countless feet on Espana and Edsa; the unfurling of banners at Mendiola, Liwasang Bonifacio and Camp Crame, the cries of pain and anger, clenched fists and the outrage of a people.

We remember and give thanks for...

- the comrades and martyrs who have gone before us: Brother Caloy Tayag, Minda Gran, Purificacion Pedro, Sr. Consoy Chuidian, Inocencio Ipong, et al. of the Cassandra tragedy, Mother Greg Villarosa, Frank Cabarubias, Sister Rufie Patosa, Isagani Valle, Sr. Azun Martinez, Rudy Romano, and countless others.
- as well as all those Christians who today are faithfully living out the call of radical discipleship within the revolutionary struggle of the Filipino people.

We are challenged and empowered,

by all these living memories of the sacrifice and witness of Christians for National Liberation, born of the people's intolerable suffering, and confirmed in opting to stand with and for the poor, who today, despite the modest gains of EDSA DOS, continue to wage the people's revolution for radical empowerment, for justice and for lasting peace.

We renew our solidarity with the Filipino people

and commit ourselves and the abundant resources of our Christian faith to the total victory of the revolutionary struggle, steadfast and resolute in our belief that Jesus is actively present in the people, with fire in his eyes, cursing the corrupt and false leaders, and with a whip in his hand, as he drives

It is in the name of the same Jesus of Present History, that we challenge ourselves and all fellow Christians and believers, and say:

Let us faithfully serve the people, and thus be faithful to the Lord!
Let the integrity of our faith shine as a light for all to see!
Let us live in the sure hope that the revolutionary struggle will triumph!

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*"I am
come to
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on the
earth.
How I wish
it were
already
Ablaze."
Luke 12:49*



OPINION

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Politics of cynicism

THE OPPOSITION launched its campaign for the May elections with a senatorial ticket led by the former first lady, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, wife of deposed President Estrada. With her as its standard-bearer, the ticket is composed mainly of Estrada loyalists, serving notice that the opposition intends to seek an electoral vindication of the discredited Estrada administration.

EDITORIAL The opposition has also recycled a worn-out Estrada theme by adopting the campaign slogan that its candidates represent the "Puwersang Masa."

With this, the issue in the senatorial contest is joined. The administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has fielded a ticket built on the People Power Coalition. It considers the elections as a referendum for the popular revolt that threw out Estrada from power and for a popular confirmation of its legitimacy.

The opposition is exhibiting exaggerated optimism when it predicts an eight-seven win. It is swimming against powerful currents made up of the fact that the Macapagal administration is enjoying a political honeymoon, the Estrada regime and its die-hard partisans are tarred with the stigma of corruption of the old regime, and the new administration has yet to make some major blunders. In short, it enjoys the advantages of incumbency, and these advantages are underlined by the high trust ratings in public opinion polls for Ms Macapagal.

While the pro-Estrada stalwart, former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, who presided over the dissolution of the Estrada administration, is correct in saying that opposition parties have historically gained seats in mid-term elections, the circumstances surrounding the May polls are different from those of the past. The Macapagal administration's record is not in issue. By May, it will hardly be four months in office, so the polls are not going to be a referendum on its performance. It is campaigning on the issue of winning a sweep of the congressional elections so as to have a broader legislative mandate to carry out reforms. Underlying this campaign is the question of the legitimacy of the new administration now being challenged in the Supreme Court where Estrada's claim that he is still president but only on leave is being decided.

The opposition party could not have chosen a more disastrous campaign theme by presenting itself as the counterattack troop of an Estrada restoration. By restoration, we mean the return of the corruption and incompetence which fueled the people's outrage that led to People Power II. The opposition candidates are not even presenting themselves as alternatives to the new administration by offering even a semblance of a program except for the empty slogan "Puwersang Masa." The scale of corruption uncovered during the impeachment trial of Estrada and even in the criminal cases against him with the Ombudsman shatters all of Estrada's claim that his short-lived government was dedicated to the poor. The plunder transferred enormous wealth to him, the members of his extended family and the cabal of cronies feeding on his corruption.

The poor were the ultimate losers in the thieving that happened during the Estrada administration. They were used to prop up the old regime. Estrada's heirs are again using them to seek vindication of his regime. "Puwersang Masa" underscores the cynical politics of the opposition, as well as its failure to offer itself as a viable political alternative to the Macapagal administration.

The fielding of Loi Ejercito as the standard-bearer of the opposition ticket is unfortunate. It highlights the opposition's exercise in political cynicism. In fact, her candidacy is sadistic. Loi has long played the role of a long-suffering martyr, a victim of Estrada's string of marital infidelities. Now, she is being used as a weapon to regain Estrada's lost popularity. The assumption is that Loi, who is held out as a decent and compassionate person, could play on the public's sympathy for the underdog.

However, she is also tarred with charges of corruption. She faces, together with her husband, corruption charges stemming from alleged *jueteng* money payoffs. As an alleged friend of the poor, her charities were no more than tokenism consisting of doles. Her candidacy, therefore, makes her the magnet of attacks on the old regime's corruption. She will not be spared severe lashing in the campaign.

Loi has been wronged enough in her family life. In offering her as the standard-bearer of its Senate ticket, the opposition has set her up as a cannon fodder. Those who pushed her into the thick of the campaign have wounded her many times over.



Winnability versus ability

IT seemed for a while that Noli de Castro was sure of inclusion in the People Power Coalition ticket because of what was called his "winnability." It speaks well of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that, as the final arbiter in choosing the administration slate, she disregarded that factor in favor of the more substantial credential of "ability."

It speaks ill of the Puwersang Masa that included De Castro in its ticket after his rejection by the Edsa forces. This only affirms its lack of principles. It also speaks ill of De Castro, who has demonstrated his *balimbing* mentality so early in his political career. To him and his partymates, one size fits all. De Castro and the other pro-Erap candidates clearly deserve each other.

Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez, the Grand Old Man of Rizal and Mr. Nacionalista himself, defined politics as "not subtraction but addition." You couldn't be more practical than that. Even so, he was annoyed when Speaker J.B. Laurel—to Pepito's everlasting regret later—sneaked Ferdinand Marcos into the Nacionalista Party after the disaffected LP leader failed to get the presidential nomination of his own party. Other NP leaders also complained but were helpless against the fait accompli.

Laurel was following Amang's own concept of politics and believed only Marcos could eject Diosdado Macapagal from Malacañang, more so because Marcos had not only winnability but also ability. When the two bar topnotchers faced each other in 1965, Marcos won hands down. Little did Laurel—and the rest of the nation for that matter—dream that this would begin a tyrannical reign that would forever blemish our democracy. Years later and from the grave, Marcos was to give Estrada ideas of his own on how to dupe the people.

The moral of this story is that ability and much less winnability are not necessarily safe criteria to ensure the faithful performance of public duties. Joseph Estrada had winnability but no ability, and look what has happened to our country. Marcos had both winnability and ability, but it's a photo-finish between Estrada and him on who was the viler villain. In any case, it is clear that neither winnability nor ability is a guaranty against corruption, in which both these rascals excelled.

SEPARATE
OPINION

Isagani
A. Cruz

Winnability is not a guaranty only against corruption but also ineptness and stupidity. Evidence of this is found in many public elective positions, beginning with Malacañang through Congress and the local governments. These positions are filled by former or present show-biz people who have exploited their tinsel popularity to beguile the voters into entrusting them with public office. For the laughs and scorn they have been getting as public officials, they might as well have remained behind the footlights.

Only recently, Senators Tito Sotto and Robert Jaworski made a spectacle of themselves by bullying the executives of cell phone companies which had allegedly transmitted derogatory text messages against them. These senators obviously do not realize that the Constitution calls for proper respect for the rights of persons appearing at legislative investigations. Some years ago, the same Senator Sotto berated a security guard for not allowing him to enter a private subdivision without a car sticker. His heart bled for the poor people without passes who could not visit their rich relatives in the exclusive village.

As demonstrated by Marcos, superior intelligence can be a great risk to the people. It can be used to abuse them, with guns if guile does not succeed. What sensitive person who lived through martial law can forget the many deceptions he foisted upon us, beginning with the Constitution of 1973 that he rammed down our throats down to the snap election of 1985 with which he finally outsmarted himself? So oily was this extraordinary demagogue that there are still among us a few misguided loyalists who remain afflicted by the hallucination that their idol is greater than Rizal.

But President Macapagal was right in choosing ability over winnability, because there is less risk involved in preferring a competent person

to a merely popular one. Heaven only knows how much better our country would have been if over the years the electorate had voted more wisely and chosen the more competent candidates over their rivals who merely had more money or power or a better organized political machine. Any astute political observer knows that in an election participated in by less than discerning voters, it is not always the better man who wins.

I recall that in the 1957 presidential election, the principal contenders were President Carlos P. Garcia, Jose Yulo of the Liberal Party, Claro M. Recto of the Nacionalista Citizens Party and Manuel Manahan. On the basis of academic endowments and political experience, Recto was the best qualified among them, but in that field of four, he placed fourth. "I knew I was going to lose," he wryly remarked later, "but I did not know it would be a disaster." In 1949, Jose P. Laurel was clearly the better man against Elpidio Quirino and Jose Avelino, but he lost to the birds and the bees in Lanao.

There are also telling illustrations in American political history. Daniel Webster and Henry Clay were formidable statesmen who never got to be president. Webster was not even nominated. Clay lost successively to John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk. In more recent times, Adlai E. Stevenson, the authentic egghead, was intellectually superior to Dwight D. Eisenhower—and also delivered the more elegant speeches—but lost twice to Ike and his popular grin.

The political wags are saying there are some People Power candidates who are not winnable although they are decidedly competent. I will vote for them just the same because they have the potential to be good public servants. Although they may be less known than the other candidates, I believe in their integrity, both political and moral. I would rather vote for them than for any of the pro-Erap people who lack selflessness, devotion to principles and courage of conviction, which are my indispensable criteria for honest and dedicated public service. I hope they land in the *kangkangan* with Erap.

Reactions to this column may be faxed to 821-7055.

Russia denies US accusations of arms proliferation

MOSCOW—Defense Minister Igor Sergeev dismissed as "rubbish" Thursday US accusations that Moscow was actively supplying "rogue states" like North Korea and Iran with sensitive missile technology.

Sergeev's angry response came after comments by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld aired Wednesday on the PBS show "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" and seen as the bluntest criticisms of Russia since President George W. Bush took office. Rumsfeld branded Russia "an active proliferator," selling dangerous technology to hostile governments which threaten the United States, Western Europe and the Middle East. He argued that Russia was not actually opposed to Washington's plans to build a national missile defense (NMD) shield and that President Vladimir Putin's administration was only trying to score diplomatic points on the subject.

"This is rubbish. There is nothing of the sort going on," fumed Sergeev. "I find it difficult to react to these ravings, which are not supported by any reason. The geopolitical situation does not require us to do anything of the sort."

Sergeev further denied a Washington press report citing US intelligence claims they had satellite imagery proving that Russia stationed tactical nuclear weapons in its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad last summer.

Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Valery Manilov rejected Rumsfeld's allegations, saying that the sales of technology were in line with international non-proliferation treaties. And Manilov accused Rumsfeld of making his charges against Russia to win further domestic US support for the NMD plan by fomenting distrust in the Putin administration.

Joining the military war of words, Putin's top national security advisor ominously cautioned

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dmitry Zaks

Some political analysts here note that Rumsfeld's comments could in equal part be directed at Europe, which is concerned about Russia's displeasure with NMD and currently cautious over nuclear shield

Rumsfeld to think of the military consequences his accusations might have. "I hope and expect that we can still hold a calm dialogue with the United States on this question, in which all the factors are taken into account...including the consequences of such a step," Sergei Ivanov said in reference to the US missile defense plans. Rumsfeld's comments came just days after US

security adviser Condoleezza Rice branded Russia as a "threat" to the West, and against the backdrop of major Russian military exercises that have already prompted safety concerns in Norway and Japan. Rice's remarks coincided with the release of a US CIA report concluding that "Putin wants to restore some aspects of the Soviet past" at the expense of human rights and Western interests.

But the accusations from Rumsfeld were much more specific and direct. "Russia is an active proliferator. They are part of the problem," said Rumsfeld. "They are selling and assisting countries like Iran and North Korea and India and other countries with these technologies which are threatening other people, including the United States and Western Europe and countries in the Middle East."

Some political analysts here note that Rumsfeld's comments could in equal part be directed at Europe, which is concerned about Russia's displeasure with NMD and currently cautious over nuclear shield. "Rumsfeld wants to discredit Russian arguments against NMD and is also concerned that this debate is winning support in Europe," said Ivan Sofronchuk PIR political analysis center. "He wants to leave a weak Russia one-on-one with a strong United States in this debate."

Others note that while Washington and Moscow have disagreed over missile defense, the tone has become much more direct since the Republicans won the White House in November—in part because they are less comfortable with Putin.

"Right now, anti-US sentiments are very strong in the government, and in part this has everything to do with Putin," said Yevgeny Volk of the US-based Heritage Foundation center.

"Russia wants to win the support of all nations who have anti-American views," Volk said.

AFP

A new alternative to a UP education

AFTER READING about Pangasinan Rep. Benjamin Lim's decision to seek reelection the other day, I managed to reach former Speaker Joe de Venecia at his Makati home just as he was leaving for a speaking engagement in Dagupan City. De Venecia said that he was, as always, ready to take up a challenge. But he couldn't help but express disappointment that Lim had gone back on his word. Just before De Venecia left for Europe late last month, where he attended a big gathering of Christian Democrats in Rome and met with Jose Ma. Sison and other ranking communist exiles in Amsterdam, he apparently got a commitment from Lim that he would withdraw in De Venecia's favor in Pangasinan's fourth district.

Lim apparently also told ranking party leaders like Defense Secretary Eddie Ermita and Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza two weeks ago that he would give way to De Venecia. More importantly, Lim told President Macapagal when she visited the House the other week, "Wala na hong problema." He had earlier been quoted as saying that all the President had to do was to talk to him and he'd get out of the race. Ms Macapagal then told De Venecia and Lim, "Mag-ayos na kayo," clearly referring to the party formula to return De Venecia to the House and have Lim run as mayor of Dagupan. Lim also assured former President Ramos that he was withdrawing in favor of De Venecia. On the basis of all this, Lakas leaders Teofisto Guingona and Hersherson Alvarez proclaimed De Venecia as the party's official candidate.

Now Lim has turned around and said that he would seek reelection because he could not ignore "the overwhelming clamor" of the people for him to do so. Lakas deputy secretary general Raul Lambino echoed the concern of the party about splitting the votes, raising the matter of Lim's word of honor. Actually, for the people of Pangasinan's fourth district, the choice is not difficult. De Venecia has a proven record of achievements as speaker, whereas Lim seems to be a confirmed member of the committee of silence. He hasn't been heard from during his entire term in the House. But his *kabayans* are still trying to convince Lim to run for mayor of Dagupan, as his talents seem to be better suited for administration than legislation. Lim, who was former general manager of the Duty Free Philippines before he ran for the House in 1998,

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



should be interested to push for Dagupan's prosperity as he has quite an investment there—he owns four big shopping malls there.

Actually the battle for the fourth district may look like a simple case of local rivalry, with Lim running as the underdog versus a former presidential candidate. But there is something bigger here. De Venecia intends to recapture the speakership and Ms Macapagal needs him there in order to push the bills that will be crucial to the administration. In addition, his genius for forging coalitions is needed to handle the various political blocs. One is the big Nationalist People's Coalition, which has about 65 to 70 members in the House. The NPC members, led by former Speaker Noli Fuentebella, recently trooped to the Palace to pledge cooperation with Ms Macapagal, but it's difficult to see the NPC giving up the power struggle when one considers that the P150-billion coconut levy issue remains at stake.

The scuttlebutt is that De Venecia's bid to recapture the speakership is being derailed in Pangasinan precisely because they don't want him back in the House, since the NPC will be backing Danding Cojuangco's nephew, Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro. De Venecia could give Teodoro a good fight. Could this be the reason Lim is pushing his reelection bid?

There are reports that Danding has begun sowing seeds in this coming election, by giving out campaign contributions to local officials. The amount of P5 million per candidate is being mentioned. Such contribution in aid of candidates' election is peanuts to Danding considering that the gargantuan coco levy is at stake.

Are you one of those students who took the UP College Admission Test but didn't qualify because its entrance quota is limited to only 10 to 15 percent of those who passed?

You need not despair. There is an alternative to a UP education. A group of UP professors led by former UP president Jose V. Abueva has established the Kalayaan College (KC) to take in precisely those who were not admitted to UP due to entrance limitations, as well as those who took admission tests in other colleges and universities.

We had lunch recently with Pepe Abueva and his wife Coring, and he excitedly told us about KC's goal of offering quality higher education to high school graduates seeking academic and professional training for employment in business, the computer industry, government, education and culture and the arts. KC's motto is "The truth will set you free." With the permission of the Commission on Higher Education, this new college will open this coming school year at its campus at the Riverbanks Center in Marikina City.

The Kalayaan College's founders include Jose Abueva who is its president; Dr. Thelma Kintanar, VP for academic affairs; Dr. Gonzalo Jurado, VP for finance and development; Dr. Virginia Cariño, VP for student affairs; Dr. Emeterio P. Lee, registrar; and National Artist Napoleon Abueva, performing artist Monique Wilson, and ceramic artist Lanella A. Fernando as directors. Predictably, most of KC's faculty will come from UP. A colleague of ours who was at the lunch, UP Mass Communications Prof. Carolina "Bobbi" Malay, queried Pepe, "Pwede ba akong maguro doon?" Said Pepe: "It would be an honor for us."

Abueva said KC will offer a solid two-year general education to all its students which will give them a broad base in science and the liberal arts preparatory to earning a bachelor's degree in computer science, business administration, literature, public administration, secondary education (English), and early childhood care and development. KC also offers a program leading to a master's degree in language teaching and several short training courses.

To ensure their admission, Abueva advises interested students to apply as soon as possible by calling 934-4865 or visiting the KC's information office at the administration building of the Riverbanks Center along the Marikina River near Marcos Highway. Students may also e-mail their queries to kalayaan@impactnet.com.

We can never have enough of good schools and KC's directors and faculty are doing the country a great service.

Telling the story of a people

FROM JIM Paredes, taken from the "aphokingsociety" website, "Politically Incorrect" section, this "warning": Several new viruses have been discovered and are wreaking havoc throughout Philippine cyberspace.

BEWARE OF...

THE ERAP Virus—creates aliases of all your valuable files and gives them fictitious names.

THE I1SENATORS virus—initially will refuse to open files but after much complaining from you, will consent to open them.

THE KIT TATAD virus—known to have first appeared more than 20 years ago, it constantly reinvents itself. The latest version screws up your computer, and then will come out with a message explaining why it screwed it up!

THE TESSIE ORETA virus—a moving screen saver that takes over your computer similar to the dancing baby!

THE FORTUN BROTHERS virus—causes your computer screen to blink continuously.

THE ESTELITO MENDOZA virus—causes prominent people to just show up uninvited and use your computer so that you have to move to another one.

THE MIRIAM virus—screens your hard disk, chooses any three files at random and attempts to expel them.

THE ENRILE virus—among other things, it is known to add and delete Data files (*dagdag-bawas*) when it wants to. It has been suspected to have caused many serious system crashes and also likes to brag that it is indestructible.

THE HONASAN virus—a clone of the ENRILE virus.

THE OPLE virus—a virus so old it will probably just expire by itself!

THE SOTTO virus—attacks jokes and short messages.

THE RAMON REVILLA virus—causes your computer to sleep suddenly.

THE COSETENG virus—makes all images on your screen look fat.

THE JAWORSKI virus—the most clueless virus.

THE JOHN OSMENA virus—attaches to data but instead of being filed in a folder, it prefers a closet!

It was to celebrate "People Power II" that John Silva invited a small group of friends over last

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Sunday for a personal guided tour of the Museum of the Filipino People, which he serves as a consultant.

On hindsight, there was a poetic symmetry to the idea. What better way to celebrate a historic victory of the Filipino people, after all, than to "walk through" the story of the Filipino people and the Philippines? From the birth of this archipelago to our ethnographic roots, our cultural diversity and our history, to the best of Philippine arts and crafts, the story is told impressively and with much style and wit.

My daughter Miya, who had taken a fieldtrip some years before to the National Museum at its old site in the former Senate building, had at first protested that there was "nothing new" to see, wondering why she should sacrifice her sleep on a Sunday to see old things she had already seen. Halfway through the tour, though, she was already protesting that Silva was walking too fast, saying she wanted more time to look at the exhibits and read the explanations.

Among the more remarkable exhibits: a dark, atmospheric chamber housing an exhibit on ancient burial jars evoking the spot where they were first discovered, inside a cave; an exhibit of native weaves, textiles and garments, creatively and intelligently curated by Marian Pastor Roces; and of course the art galleries devoted to the fascinating collection of modern Philippine art of Purita Kalaw Ledesma as well as to the best of the National Museum's collection of paintings and sculpture.

Three galleries are devoted to the treasures found in the wreck of the "San Diego," a trade ship loaded down with merchandise urgently commandeered to fight off an invading Dutch fleet. Walking through the breathtaking displays of porcelain, ceramic jars, cannons and artillery, we were amazed at how over-loaded the "San Diego" was;

no wonder it sank upon ramming a Dutch frigate. Sinky Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, who took the tour, too, remarked that that early in our history, Filipinos were already notorious for our bad traveling habits, the oversized jars being the early manifestations of the "balikbayan box."

THERE are hi-tech touches as well, designed to appeal to the younger generation looking for more excitement than dusty artifacts and scholarly captions. In almost every gallery, there are interactive computer stations through which museum-goers can access more information about the subject matter. The music section of the ethnographic gallery features a "toy," a video exhibit in which visitors can insert themselves on screen, playing indigenous instruments. "When the former President toured the museum," recalled Silva, "this was his favorite exhibit. He spent all of 30 minutes here, delighted at seeing himself onscreen."

Now managed by a private foundation headed by Antonio Cojuangco, the new Museum of the Filipino People at the old Finance building does us proud as a people. Silva even threw in running commentaries on the handsome structure, an American Federal-style building which was nearly totally destroyed by American bombs toward the end of the war. Silva credits Antolin Oreta, contracted by the American government to rebuild the building, for arguing successfully to follow the original design blueprints and thus preserve for Manilans of later generations a glimpse of the city's beautiful past. If only Manila city officials were as perceptive and caring about other historic buildings in the city!

A CLOSING note: After the museum tour, and going on a mild shopping spree at the museum store, we went next-door to the Orchidarium for lunch at Lush Life café. A glassed-in structure that allows a view of the surrounding gardens, Lush Life offers a cool, relaxing refuge from the bustle of city life.

The food is outstanding, too. We heartily recommend the *longanisa* and white cheese pizza as well as the pastry desserts. To our delight, we discovered that many others on the tour had chosen Lush Life, too, including John Silva. As I told John as he was leaving together with Randy David and his daughters, "What a wonderful way to enjoy a Sunday!"

The Sarrat Uprising (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



enemies. The following day an announcement was made warning under pain of death the inhabitant against giving refuge to any member of the *principalia*.

Around this time, Simon Tomas appeared to have taken over command of the forces and captured the *gobernadorcillo* and two members of the ruling class. They were taken to the plaza where they were interrogated about the abolition of their privileges accorded them by the constitution of 1812. Not satisfied with their answers, the rebels condemned them to death but allowed the parish priest to hear their confession.

The priest obtained a suspension of their execution until such time as news from other towns could be obtained, but they remained in prison with others accused.

Simon Tomas took off for San Nicolas and Andres Bulgarin went to Piddig, each with 200 men. The former tried to go to Laoag but was prevented from crossing the river by the *principalia* of that town. He returned to Sarrat on March 5, as did Bulgarin.

The counterattack came quickly. The same day, 600 men from Vintar, Batak, Paoay, San Nicolas and Laoag advanced against the rebels. Forewarned, the *alcalde mayor* sent Lt. Antonio Li-

mon with the infantry and his aide J. Bernabe Soto with 30 members of the dragoons on horseback. Between them they surrounded the town of Sarrat while the inhabitants prepared to resist. If the attack proceeded they planned to kill the prisoners.

The parish priest spoke to them that evening and convinced of the futility of their resistance. As a consequence, many took off for the forests that night. When the dragoons entered the following day, they hardly met any resistance.

When Sinibaldo de Mas came to the Philippines in 1842, documentation regarding the Sarrat incident existed in the Augustinian archives and the memory of the uprising was still fresh in people's minds as well. There were elders who were still alive and they gave him their account of the uprising. Some reports said the rebels held the town for three or four weeks, but Isabelo de los Reyes and Fernando Ferrer who wrote about it confirmed de Mas' report that the uprising lasted no more than three days.

"While the counterforce from Laoag was in the plaza—it is not known who gave the order or suggested it—a house was put to the torch on the north side, then another on the East, then the South and in a few hours Sarrat was no more than a mountain of ashes. Shortly the inhabitants found themselves on the banks of the river, shouting and crying without a roof over their heads except for the sky. Later when the mayor, Francisco Bringas, arrived together with the infantry, he had to find food and lodging for the people and directed the creation of a new town that was constructed some distance from the old town."

Data from "Efemerides Filipinas" by Jaime C. de Veyra.

Death on Valentine's Day

I HAD never met her before, but when I saw her I just knew she needed help. She was sitting in front of me in the bus we were riding. I was praying the rosary when her companion, who happened to be her aunt, asked the driver to bring them to the nearest hospital. I didn't mind them at first but when I saw the old woman stroking her chest, I knew she needed help.

I thought that she was probably having a heart attack. Being a physical therapist by training, I asked her aunt, "Ano ho ang sakit ng anak ninyo?"

The aunt answered, "Sakit ho sa puso, doc." The aunt thought I was a doctor because I was wearing an all-white outfit that day. Incidentally, I opted to wear white because I definitely didn't want to give anyone the impression that I was mourning by wearing black because I didn't have a date that Valentine's Day.

For the first time, I talked to the young woman. Her eyes had black circles around them and her lips were almost black. She was slightly delirious as she motioned back and forth on the seat, complaining that she couldn't breathe and that her chest was painful.

I asked what her name was and her aunt answered, "Rosemarie, doc." Then she added, "Magpapa-check-up lang po siya sa Heart Center ngayon, tapos ayan na po ang nangyari." The old woman was panicking.

I asked her how old was Rosemarie. She told me she was 27. I told Rosemarie to relax so that she won't have too much difficulty trying to breathe. She was having severe chest pains and her look was a mixture of fear and agony.

I asked the bus driver to call a taxi. We were lucky as an empty taxi soon passed us by the driver's side.

I took Rosemarie and her aunt down the bus, but the taxi driver refused to take us at first. He said his taxi was a service car and he had to pick up his client. I asked him where he is heading and he said, "Toward Quezon City Circle."

I told him, "Well, we want to go to the Heart Center. Maybe you can bring us there." He told us to get in.

The traffic proved aggravating as cars and other vehicles didn't seem to be moving. But when we saw a patrolman passing by, we asked him to help us. Soon we were on our way.

Rosemarie by this time was in agony inside the taxi. I told her she had to help herself and think of her two kids, the eldest of whom was 2 years old. Then suddenly her eyes just got big and she extended her arms forward. She was calling her father who was already dead. The aunt told her not to join her father; that she has to live. Rosemarie just got more delirious.

When the traffic became impossible again, I decided to just bring her to the nearest hospital. We rushed her to the emergency room of the Lung Center.

The doctors and nurses tried to stabilize her condition. They did everything they could, but 30 minutes later Rosemarie had a cardiac arrest. They tried to revive her, but after another 30 minutes, Rosemarie was gone. The doctors said she had the end-stage of a congestive heart failure. If she was brought to the hospital earlier, she could have been saved.

According to the aunt, Rosemarie did not sleep the whole night on account of the chest pains. She should have been brought to the hospital but she didn't want to go because they had no money. The aunt had to think hard before agreeing to take the taxi with me to the hospital on account of money. When her family wanted to take Rosemarie's body out of the morgue, they still had a problem with money.

I never saw patients die when I was still working as a physical therapist. I've never had anyone die on me ever. Then I met a girl named Rosemarie and I only got to share about an hour and a half of her remaining life. I met her and she had to die practically in my arms.

We were not related, but I cried as I stepped out of the hospital. I was thinking: *Mahirap maging mahirap. Nabuhay kang mahirap at siguro mamamatay ka ring mahirap.*

Burying her was going to be a problem. Rosemarie was just a simple housewife. Her aunt was a *lavandera* and her husband was a carpenter who came home only on weekends.

At 27, I am preoccupied mostly with superficial things: how well I will do in my studies; how my career will unfold this year; how I will develop as a singer; what clothes I will wear tomorrow; what movies I will watch; what CD I will buy; when and where I will find the right mate for myself. I have a wonderful family and a truly blessed life yet sometimes I still complain. But people like Rosemarie can hardly complain. They have to bear the pain of sickness and disease because they don't have enough money for treatment. They cannot complain because mothers like her would rather save the money for their kids than spend it for themselves. They cannot complain because our world was probably meant for those who have the means to survive.

The experience made me think how I have handled my heart and my life these past few years. The experience was certainly not one of those things that will make you feel so happy as when your crush passed by or even said, "Hi." My experience with Rosemarie made me realize how important it is to enjoy moments with my loved ones. It made me realize that instead of wasting my energy feeling sad about not being able to find someone in life, I should simply help others, enjoy life and touch hearts and souls in the process. I realized how blessed I was and that maybe through an act of kindness, I could share my blessings with the people I meet every day.

I learned that Valentine's Day is definitely about love and loving hearts. It does not have to be the kind of love where you get to go to a special restaurant and hold hands with someone; or give flowers or chocolates to the one you love. Sometimes, it can be about having someone die in your arms, even if she was just a stranger.

I had never met Rosemarie before but when our paths crossed, she gave me my life back. She gave me hope and faith that love is still alive in my heart at a time when I thought being single was the most pathetic thing about someone my age.

Happy Valentine's Day, Rosemarie. I hope we can talk someday—in heaven.

Christopher George Lauchengco Cadhit, 27, works as a research analyst in a private corporation and is studying for his MBA studies at the De La Salle University. He sings at weddings and plays the violin.

THEY SAID

Disgrace

"She is a disgrace to Filipino womanhood. We know for a fact that she is running just to cover up her husband's trail."
—Running priest Roberto Reyes on former first lady Loi Ejercito's bid for the Senate

Only an actor

"He is no longer President, he is just an actor without a stage."
—Bishop Emeritus Antonio Portich on Joseph Estrada's claim that he is still President

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Is Gloria ready to forgive Erap?

IN A RECENT speech, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo emphatically stated that in the case of her predecessor, there should be "repentance before forgiveness." She made the statement twice for emphasis and added that this was non-negotiable.

At first blush one would think this was a stern warning, but upon reflection it strikes me as an assurance of pardon. So early in her rule, Ms Macapagal is already speaking with a forked tongue and straining the credulity of the people. Is this the kind of healing she meant in her "time to heal and time to build"

speech? A healing between the camp of Lakas and the camp of LAMP?

The aggrieved and offended party in the cases against Joseph Estrada is the people. Ms Macapagal's obligation is to render justice to the people who have been wronged not just by Estrada but also by her own party. She has ascended to the presidency by operation of the Constitution in spite of the bad reputation of her party. It is her singular duty to the people by whose direct action she is now in power to rid the government of the ills they protested against during Edsa II.

And what are these ills? It was not the plunging economy or the grinding poverty of a great number of our people as these are merely the effects of a more pernicious malady that has hounded the nation since the birth of the republic. It was the stunning thievery that Erap allegedly committed and this is the consuming evil in our government Ms Macapagal is mandated to eliminate.

As the Department of Justice is now going through the frenzy of prosecuting Erap (who is now virtually promised pardon) what is happening to the RSBS, PEA-Amari, Centennial projects and other scams



of the President's own party? The festering wounds that now cry for healing are those inflicted by the errant administrations that have taken turns in looting the public coffers. The real test of the President's sincerity is not only in the outcome of Erap's case but also those involving her party mates.—E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City

The party-list system in review

PARTY-LIST elections will again be held in May together with the regular elections for national and local government officials. With less than 30 percent of Filipino voters who voted in 1998 casting their votes for the party-list candidates, it is obvious that many voters still do not have an adequate knowledge about this new system.

The party-list system was introduced into our 1987 Constitution, with the express objective that the new electoral system would improve the nature and conduct of Philippine politics, elections and governance.

COMMENTARY

Jerry F. Adevos

Philippine politics has long been criticized for its often wild and woolly ways and described in several derisive phrases such as "trapo" (traditional politics) or "the politics of personalities, popularity and patronage" (the 4Ps) or "the politics of guns, goons and gold" (the 3Gs).

Filipino war veterans have already done more than their fair share for this country. During World War II, they endured extreme and inhuman deprivation, left families and risked their lives to regain freedom and democracy. But after 1945, they instinctively knew their work for the nation was not yet complete. Thus, veterans were consistently in the forefront of the struggle for good or better government, and five of them became presidents while many others became Cabinet members, senators, congressmen, judges, local officials and simply concerned, civic-minded citizens. They knew that after getting back our liberty come the bigger and more difficult tasks of strengthening the nation's democratic institutions and fighting off all forces that would threaten our people's liberty and well-being.

When the 1987 Constitution came into being, the war veterans knew they could contribute their share in changing and improving the government and remove social and political ills. It was for this reason, that the 40-year-old non-political Veterans Federation of the Philippines organized a separate political organization called the Veterans Federation Party (VFP). The veterans thus joined the non-traditional, cause-oriented political exercises called for under the party-list system.

In 1998, the veterans won one seat in the House. In the last three years, more legislative bills, resolutions and measures favorable to veterans have been filed and approved by the House than in the previous 10 years.

Like our war veterans, all Filipino citizens owe it to themselves and their country to fully grasp the good intentions, the high promise and the hope inherent but still incubating in the party-list system. Well handled, the party-list system can introduce positive changes into Philippine politics. But mishandled, it can deteriorate into the same old rotten political banana that, in the perception of many, our politics has become.

Many Filipinos have been looking for ways to change our process of choosing the people who will run the government. The party-list is one of the few, if not the only constitutional tool available for ordinary people (and not just the powerful and moneyed sectors) to effect peaceful reforms and participate in the management of the country.

The party-list idea must therefore sink into the consciousness of our people. They must fully embrace and accept it. More importantly, they must defend it against its detractors and enemies and keep it free of the old *trapo* practices.

If we want change, then all Filipinos should harness their collective will and power to help this new electoral system (and with it, our fledgling democracy) grow and develop.

Built into the party-list system is the idealistic but achievable objective of minimizing and eventually removing the *trapo*, the 4Ps and the 3Gs. By making organizations and the needy, under-represented and even impoverished sectors they represent as the candidates rather than individual persons, the party-list system weakens many of our old demeaning political structures and practices. The system helps minimize or remove the need for big sums of money to win elections. It deemphasizes the need for political parties to have popular (even if unqualified) personalities and emphasizes the basic requirement that candidates (through their nominees) possess proper qualifications and a full grasp of political, social and economic issues. Finally, the system discourages the practice of making campaign promises that cannot be fulfilled.

Under this new system therefore, more attention can be given to issues and causes. And this is the way it should be in a maturing democracy.

The 12 marginalized sectors allowed by the Constitution to join the party-list polls are, in my opinion, the true representatives of what has been called the "masa." These sectors are: war veterans, senior citizens, women, the differently abled, peasant farmers, urban poor, fishermen, indigenous cultural communities, youth, labor, overseas workers and professionals.

The intentions behind the adoption of the party-list system are therefore good. However, this is not to say that the system is working perfectly, and needs no more changes. The structural defects of the system were immediately evident after the 1998 elections. Some of these are:

(1) The party-list law, RA 7941, needs to be fine-tuned to make it easier for all to understand and implement the system. We have legislators who are aware of this flaw, but what is needed is the political will to introduce the necessary amendments and get them approved by Congress.

(2) The Department of Education, Culture and Sports ought to require schools to give more emphasis to the teaching of the Constitution and especially the party-list system so that our younger citizens will be more knowledgeable about it.

(3) The Commission on Elections should intensify its information and education campaign on the party-list system. It should strive to eliminate confusion by being more discerning in determining the quantity and quality of organizations it will accredit for participation in the party-list elections. It can be more aggressive in promoting unity among groups representing the same sector. It can train teachers to pay closer attention to the party-list votes during the counting and canvassing of votes instead of regarding them as additional inconveniences.

(4) Private civic and people-oriented organizations can involve themselves in the effort to disseminate information on the party-list system.

(5) Media organizations should provide air time or space for such an information campaign.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the party-list representatives make up 50 percent of all the legislators in the Bundestag. It is probably one of the reasons why that country is well-run, well-managed and constantly improving. The country's energies are focused on full national development, rather than on politicking.

We in the Philippines have a long way to go before we reach that stage. But we must begin somewhere, somehow. The party-list system is one way to begin. Let's grab the opportunity and nurture it. Those who come after us will be served better by our efforts.

Jerry F. Adevos is a public relations practitioner who has actively promoted the interests of war veterans and their descendants in the last 25 years.

Mindanao priorities identified by NGOs, POs

THE INQUIRER editorial, "The Mindanao program" (PDI, 2/13/01) aptly described the priorities of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the island-region. Indeed "things are looking up for Mindanao" nowadays but to make it a land of fulfilled promise is another thing.

The years of indifference toward Mindanao have made Mindanaoans more assertive of their rights in any public process because only through effective participatory governance can people advance to reconstruction and development.

For us who are involved in development work, particularly the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks, concrete results can only come from concrete agenda. To be able to make Mindanao a progressive island-region in the country, developmental policies, actions and plans must come in conjunction with the real image and setting of Mindanao in place—its topography, ethnohistory, socio-cultural uniqueness, rich diversity and peoples. We view with fresh optimism the appointments of Mindanaoans in various sectors of national government since we believe that with their being there, the poverty and powerlessness of the Moros, Lumads and migrant settlers will finally be addressed.

Even before the historic change of national leadership, various sectors have gathered to identify what needs to be done in Mindanao. The first Trisectoral Conference on Mindanao Peace and Development last Oct. 16-17, 2000 was an occasion for non-government organizations and people's organizations and the business sector to come up with a 12-point action plan that the



government should consider seriously.—DOLLY S. CORRO, coordinator, Mindanao Coalition of

Development NGO Networks, 110 DBP Village, Ma-a Road, Ma-a, Davao City

Two sad marches for the working class

IT was more than a decade ago when labor leader Rolando Olalia and his driver Leonor Alay-ay were brutally tortured and mercilessly murdered. Yet I can still vividly remember the Olalia funeral march shown on the pages of the Mr. and Ms. Magazine and the silhouette of a long column of people with heads bowed in mourning. If I'm not mistaken, it had a caption that read: "The working class buries one of their own."

In Edsa II, the working class under the Sanlakas of Popoy Lagman gathered among a mammoth crowd. Its mighty voice gave birth to fiery hope. It was like a resurrection for the working class as it was a resurrection from immortality and political decay for the whole nation.

Very shortly after that burst of glorious Easter, the working masses marched again in collective sorrow to bury Ka Popoy Lagman.

These two marches are both highlights in the continuous and uninterrupted history of the oppressed workers' struggle for liberation from an unjust socio-economic and political structure.

Hopefully the Edsa II spirit, if sustained with the vigilance of everyone and not by the working class alone, will finally lead the marchers home at their journey's glorious end.—MA. GRACIA RINOZA-PLAZO, 62 Katipunan Avenue Extension, Loyola Grand Villas, Quezon City

Wrong tense

YOUR editorial, "Accent on Mindanao" (PDI, 2/8/01), carried this quotation from an address by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: "...It is time we heal the wounds inflicted on Mindanao residents because of unfulfilled commitments. It is time we build a bridge for economically vibrant Mindanao, especially in areas pockmarked by conflicts between brother Filipinos."

The original of the address read: "It is time we healed...it is time we built..."—TC BERBANO, 5148 Filmore cor. Zobel Roxas Streets, Palanan, Makati City

Fate of coco levy in GMA's hands

THE MACAPAGAL administration has given new hope to the small coconut farmers and farmworkers about a favorable resolution of the old problem regarding the coco levy funds. A few days after being sworn into office, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, through Finance Secretary Bert Romulo, spoke about a just resolution of the issue in favor of the coconut farmers. This was manifested by the administration's pledge to scrap Executive Orders 312 and 313, signed by deposed President Estrada, which favored his political patron, Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., and other big landlords of Cocoland.

But the farmers should not be easily lulled by flowery words that might end up empty. A situation

like this, where everybody becomes euphoric, calls for even greater vigilance from their ranks. The coconut farmers have yet to see the concrete victory promised to them.

To prove the government's sincerity in giving justice to millions of impoverished coconut farmers, the administration should choose very carefully its nominees to the boards of San Miguel Corp., the United Coconut Planters Bank and other institutions in which the farmers have an interest.

Since 27 percent of SMC shares were obviously acquired not for the exclusive benefit of the farmers but of favored Marcos cronies like Cojuangco, a serious study should be made on how the equivalent of

these shares can be put to better use. The investment should not remain in SMC, which has of no relation to the coconut industry, but in some companies which benefit the farmers directly.

The critical collaboration being pushed by the Nationalist People's Coalition with the Macapagal administration raises concern that farmers may be left with nothing again. It is now up to the President to choose between the impoverished many and the already much favored few elite.—DENNIS PRINCE Y. GERMANO, advocacy officer, Coconut Industry Reform Movement Inc., 84 Unit 1 DN, Masikap Extension, Barangay Central, Diliman, Quezon City

Violation of the right to self-expression

WHEN concerned young people like Leslie Capuz, Aldeem Yanez, Benjie Suazo and Renato Jose Malvar Jr. of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente are picked up by the police and held for several hours for posting Bayan Muna stickers along UN Avenue, then something is terribly wrong. Since when has it become a crime to express one's sentiments about what this government must place at the top of its priority concerns?

While the President calls NGOs and cause-oriented groups for consultations about what she believes are important issues, the police disallow ordinary citizens from manifesting their political beliefs. There is a grave inconsistency here.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), the largest grouping of mainline Protestant and non-Roman Catholic churches in the

country, is disappointed over this violation of the right to self-expression.

We wish to remind the President that her claim to openness to consultation will sound hollow if it is unaccompanied by the promotion of the people's right to say what is in their hearts.—SHARON ROSE JOY RUIZ-DUREMDES, general secretary, Sangguniang Pambansa ng mga Simbahan sa Pilipinas, 879 Edsa, QC

A full-blown, high-tech institution

THIS refers to an item in Conrado R. Banal's column (PDI, 2/15/01) which described Trace Computer as a "single-room affair."

For the information of Banal, the name of the school is Trace Computer and Business College, and far from being a single-room affair, it is a full-sized high-technology institution in Makati with a branch in Los Baños, Laguna.

Since its founding in 1986, it has produced some of the country's highly trained computer specialists who are now gainfully employed here and abroad and contributing to society's well-being.

I must mention that for years Trace Computer and Business College has been serving the needs of the country in the field of modern education and tech-

Why Creba wants to be in Congress

THIS has reference to an article published in your newspaper last Feb. 10, 2001 titled, "Marginalized sector getting too crowded," which listed the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations Inc. (Creba) among the groups seeking seats in Congress through the party-list system in the May elections. The article said that "many of the groups trying to get accreditation are not marginalized."

Creba, the largest organization of people involved in the real estate and housing sec-

tor, is precisely seeking a seat in Congress to address the housing problem of the country and provide shelter for underprivileged or marginalized Filipinos. Its platform of "Pabahay and Kabuhayan" is geared toward eradicating the inequities that prevent the poor from owning their own homes, like high interest rates, inadequacy of funds and lack of livelihood and employment opportunities to allow them to buy decent homes.

Under its socialized or low-cost

housing program, Creba has always been a partner of government in promoting its pro-poor programs, specifically, providing a roof for every Filipino. It continues to give hope to the low-income Filipinos that someday they will have a shelter of their own.—CHARLIE GORAYEB, president, Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations Inc., Creba Centre, Don Alejandro Rocas Avenue cor. South "A" St., Quezon City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Rocas Avenue, corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Bush to Pentagon: Review policy on civilians in subs

Landlubbers at controls of nuclear attack sub

WASHINGTON—Nervous but excited, Texas oilman John M. Hall pulled two levers on the US nuclear attack submarine *Greeneville* and quickly sat down as it veered toward the surface.

He was surrounded by real sailors. A few of them, including the captain, had looked around with the periscope before the submarine began its emergency-surfacing exercise.

"I need to take a look," the skipper said, according to another passenger on the sub. "OK," he concluded, seeing nothing amiss.

The submarine sank below periscope depth, into the otherworldly serenity of still water, then shot up. For the novices aboard—and at the controls—it felt a bit like being in a descending plane.

Built to serve as an unseen, unheard killer, the submarine this time did not see or hear what was above in the choppy waters off Hawaii a week ago.

Everyone heard a loud noise and felt the shudder of an unexpected impact. Cmdr. Scott Waddle let out a startled epithet.

On the *Ehime Maru*, the stricken Japanese fisheries-training vessel, skipper Hisao Onishi reacted, too. "Like iron being shredded," he said of the hit.

He felt he had sailed his 57-meter trawler "over some kind of a big building." Instead, it was a 108-meter submarine breaking the surface.

The sliced vessel sank quickly, leaving 26 survivors grasping for safety amid diesel oil and debris.

Nine crew members are missing, and Japan is demanding answers about how the collision occurred, why a couple of civilians were allowed at the sub's controls, and whether that made any difference.

On Thursday, two of the civilian passengers described the events on NBC's "Today" show, adding to the harrowing accounts from the *Ehime Maru*'s survivors of what happened when the sub rose like a "whale" from the sea. AP

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said the Pentagon should review its policy on civilian participation in military exercises like the emergency ascent drill a Navy submarine was performing when it sank a Japanese fishing vessel.

"I think what's going to be necessary is for Secretary Rumsfeld and the Defense Department to review all policy regarding civilian activity during military exercises," Bush told reporters at the White House Thursday.

Civilians are still being allowed to take trips on US submarines, Navy spokesperson Cmdr. Greg Smith said Thursday night. He declined, however, to comment on a New York Times report that the Navy had already ordered submarine commanders not to allow civilians to sit at the controls, at least until the investigation is over, or to come aboard subs conducting emergency training maneuvers.

Sixteen civilians were aboard the submarine when the accident happened. Two were at control stations, although Navy officials insist they had no connection with errors that caused the collision.

"I look forward to the Defense Department review of the policies, the current policies, particularly in light of the recent tragedy that took place in Hawaii," Bush said. "I want to reiterate what I said to the prime minister of Japan: I'm deeply sorry about the accident that took place, our na-

tion is sorry that the accident happened, and we will do everything we can to help recover the bodies."

Rear Adm. Stephen Pietropaoli, a Navy spokesperson, told reporters that both the Atlantic and Pacific submarine fleets are reviewing procedures involving embarkation of civilian guests on sea maneuvers.

"In the conduct of those embarks, they're going to take extra care to ensure that they're done completely safely," Pietropaoli told a Pentagon news conference.

Civilians are still being allowed to take trips on board submarines, Navy spokesperson Cmdr. Greg Smith said Thursday night. He declined to comment on a New York Times report that civilians will not be allowed to sit at the controls, at least until the investigation is over, and will not be allowed aboard subs conducting emergency training maneuvers.

Pentagon officials said a preliminary Navy investigation of the submarine collision may be finished within days. Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, will then decide whether the findings warrant court-martialing the sub's captain or crew.

Fargo will have several options: He could ask for more information before taking action, he could convene a board of inquiry to take sworn statements or he could move directly toward a court martial. AP

Golf may prove fatal to Mori political career

TOKYO—Though he has survived repeated scandals and the closest no-confidence motion in a decade, a game of golf may prove to be the downfall of Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori.

One of Japan's least popular leaders since taking office less than one year ago, Mori is facing what appears to be his worst crisis yet over his decision to continue a game of golf after hearing that a US submarine and a Japanese fishing boat had collided off Hawaii.

Anger over his failure to get off the green has prompted unusually strong criticism from within his party's leadership. And party secretary general Makoto Koga on Friday joined opposition criticism of Mori's decision to accept a free membership in the country club where he was playing as "inappropriate."

Even Mori's staunchest supporters appeared to be wavering.

Seeing Mori as too much of a political liability ahead of elections this summer, the party's largest faction will seek Mori's resignation after this year's budget is passed by Parliament next month, according

to a report Friday in the *Asahi*, a major newspaper.

Similar reports were carried in most major newspapers, although not all said the faction had set March as the target for Mori to step down.

Ruling party members of Tokyo's city assembly also called Friday for early elections to choose a new party president, a post Mori holds concurrently with the prime minister position.

"He was one step away from disaster, and he has now taken that step," said Yasunobu Iwai, a political scientist at Tokai University.

Mori, whose time in office has been marked by repeated scandals, has been widely criticized for finishing the round of golf even after being told about the accident involving the USS *Greeneville* and the *Ehime Maru* fishing boat off Hawaii late last week.

He is also facing questions over whether he failed to pay taxes on his membership in the country club where he was playing. Such memberships can be very expensive in Japan, and are sometimes traded like shares of stocks. AP

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What is Prebio?

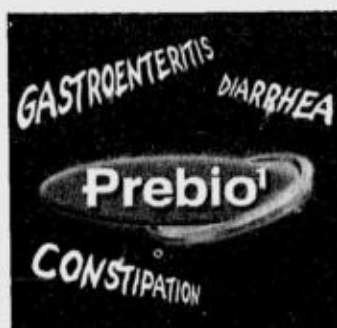
Prebio¹ is a unique, 100% natural fiber-nutrient extracted from the roots of the chicory plant -- a special shrub native to Europe which has been studied and found to have a beneficial effect on digestive health. For the first time in the country, Prebio¹ is present in New NIDO



FORTIFIED to help build defenses against gastrointestinal problems that are common among children aged one year onwards.

How does Prebio¹ work?

Prebio¹ serves as food for the friendly microorganisms - the elements which protect the digestive system from harmful microorganisms that cause diarrhea and other gastrointestinal problems. Fed and well nourished with Prebio¹, the friendly microorganisms



increase in great number, and thus, become more powerful in defending the gastrointestinal tract.

As a fiber, Prebio¹ also helps build bulk in stools. This way, waste products easily pass through the intestines, preventing constipation.

Why
Prebio¹
is important
for your toddler's
digestive health

What are the benefits of Prebio?

The most important benefit that your child will get from Prebio¹ is that she will have a stronger and healthier digestive system. This means that your child will be better able to utilize and absorb the nutrients she takes in. What's more, she will be less likely to suffer from diarrhea and other gastrointestinal problems that are common among children her age.



Is there a special age when children need Prebio?

Children of any age can and should take Prebio¹. However, the age group which would benefit the most from Prebio¹ are toddlers or children aged one year onwards.

These kids love to explore and move around, touching and tasting anything they can lay their hands on. Thus, they face more risk of exposure to unfriendly microorganisms that often leads to diarrhea and other gastrointestinal disorders.



How often should your child drink New NIDO FORTIFIED in order to have enough Prebio¹ in her system?
Your child should drink New NIDO FORTIFIED everyday. This way, she will have a constant supply of Prebio¹ to stimulate the growth of friendly microorganisms in her gut. The end result is a stronger and healthier digestive system for your child.

What other good changes could parents expect after their child has tried New NIDO FORTIFIED with Prebio?

Children that have been drinking New NIDO FORTIFIED tend to have softer stools because of their improved bowel system. With regular and healthy bowel movements, children will be more active and happy.

What other special nutrients are present in New NIDO FORTIFIED?

New NIDO FORTIFIED is also rich in Iron and Essential Fatty Acids or EFA for optimum brain development. These special nutrients help keep your child's brain and nerve tissues well nourished.

Salvador quake toll hits 283

SAN SALVADOR—The death toll from the second earthquake to shake El Salvador this year rose to 283 Thursday, with nearly 3,000 listed as injured.

The tremor that hit the country Tuesday, registering 6.1 on the Richter scale, has caused some 167,750 people to suffer material losses, authorities announced.

The quake exactly one month earlier, on Jan. 13, had already destroyed the homes of around 1.1 million people in this small country, which, since 1998, had made large strides in repairing infrastructure damage caused by Hurricane Mitch.

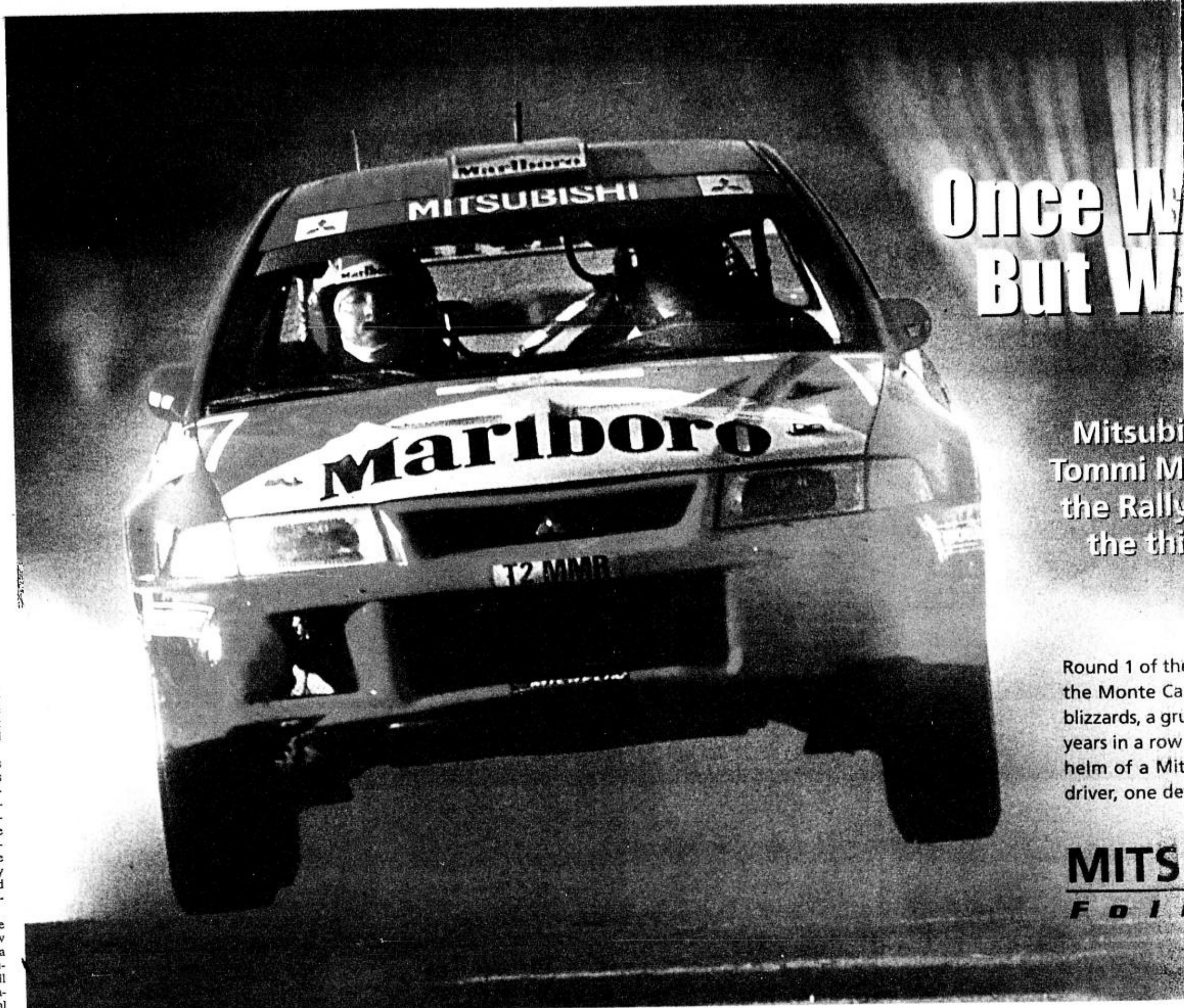
Overall, the two temblors have caused El Salvador more than \$2.6 billion in damage, according to presidential assistant Juan Jose Daboud.

In some communities, 90 percent of houses are now in ruins after this year's quakes. Numerous churches, schools and public buildings are no longer safe, and rockslides and damage to road surfaces have again made for difficult access to some affected areas.

The hardest-hit areas are the central provinces of San Vicente, Cuscatlan and La Paz—which had emerged relatively unscathed from the January quake. Thousands of families there were preparing Thursday for a third night camped out in the open in the ruins of their homes.

This country of some 6.2 million people now struggles to cope with a double-whammy that authorities are hoping will not cause compassion fatigue among international donors.

AFP



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Listen to Luzon. People are talking, expressing themselves, reaching out - through DIGTEL. On the Internet, they can now e-mail with Internet-ready phones. Across the nation, they can reach out with National Direct Dialing (NDD) at rates that are the lowest in the country. Around the globe, they can connect through International Direct Dialing (IDD). • Now, those closest to their hearts remain within reach, even if they are far away. Friends & family they miss the most are brought closer to home. And business ties they need and value are built and strengthened. Through DIGTEL, the people of Luzon now have a voice - giving them the power to express themselves, the power to better their lives.



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Protest vs graft attacked

PHNOM PENH—At least one student was badly wounded yesterday when a peaceful anti-corruption protest on a university campus in the Cambodian capital turned into a brawl, witnesses said.

The injured student was struck in the head by a stone when some 30 of his classmates from the University of Law and Economics holding a protest against alleged government corruption were set upon by a group of about 40 pro-government rivals.

"We were staging a protest against government corruption because corruption is a virus that destroys society," said Saro Sivutha, president of the Students Movement for Democracy.

"We are completely against the corrupt court system. The leaders should only do good and lead the country in a proper way."

When he and members of the student movement started chanting slogans through loud speakers, some 50 pro-government students broke into the campus and rushed at them, tearing down their banners.

A brawl ensued and was watched by some 400 students who left their classes and began chanting for the pro-government students to leave the campus.

The pro government students retreated just before about 50 armed police showed up. No arrests were made. **AFP**

It's Difficult I've Won It Thrice.

shi congratulates
akinen for winning
e Monte Carlo for
th year in a row.

2001 FIA World Rally Championship:
Rally. From dry asphalt to ice and
telling test of driver and car. Won three
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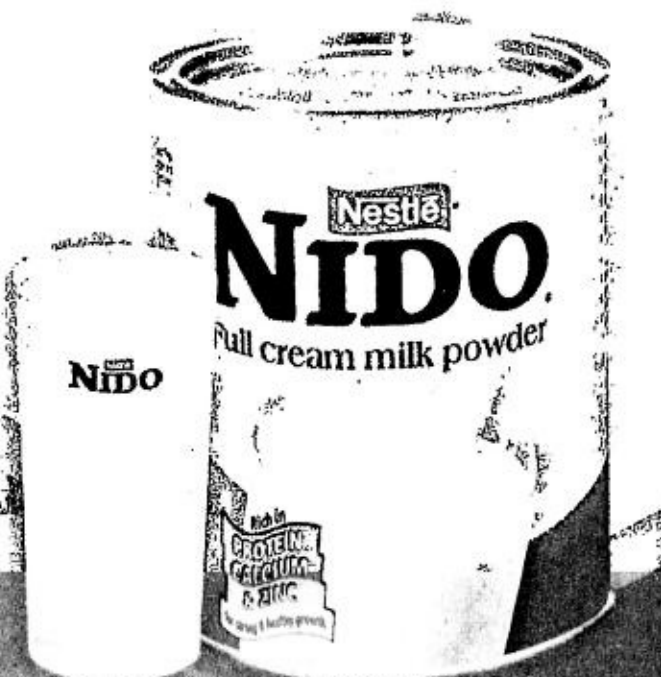
Why give another glass of NIDO before bedtime?



Studies have shown that it is during sleep that the body grows at its peak rate. Giving your child NIDO before bedtime is important because it provides the perfect combination of nutrients that are essential to growth... while he sleeps.

Protein - builds and repairs muscles
Calcium - makes bones grow
Zinc - strengthens the immune system

So apart from his usual glasses during the day, give your child NIDO before you kiss him good night.



For The World's No. 1 Child.

WORLD BRIEFS

Thousands want Wahid to resign

JAKARTA—Thousands of protesters rallied yesterday demanding that Indonesia's President Abdurrahman Wahid resign after being implicated in two multimillion-dollar corruption scandals. Police Inspector Ade Johanis said about 3,000 people demonstrated peacefully outside the local government building in Makassar, capital of South Sulawesi province, about 1,300 km northeast of Jakarta. Dozens of police watched the protest but did not intervene. And in Indonesia's second largest city of Surabaya, about 2,000 anti-Wahid demonstrators marched through the downtown area. Riot police stood by, but the rally ended peacefully. There have been a series of anti-government demonstrations in the past week in several Indonesian cities. The protests come after a series of violent demonstrations by Wahid loyalists in Surabaya and other towns in East Java province, the president's home region.



WAHID

Lee visits Indonesia amid row

SINGAPORE—Despite recent bickering between Singapore and Indonesia, Singapore elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew said he was visiting Jakarta because bilateral relations must be "kept steady," a newspaper said Friday. Lee left for Indonesia Thursday for a five-day visit—his first to the country since June 1997. President Abdurrahman Wahid invited Lee to Indonesia to attend a meeting of the country's International Advisory Panel, which aims to give Indonesia economic advice. "As (former Indonesian Foreign Minister) Ali Alatas said to me when he was in Singapore in January, Singapore-Indonesia relations must be kept steady despite temporary upsets," Lee was quoted as saying in the Straits Times newspaper.

Early signs of new El Niño detected

CANBERRA—Meteorologists have detected possible signs of a new El Niño, the Pacific Ocean climate pattern that can bring drought and bad weather to Southeast Asia and other regions. Australian National Climate Center meteorologist Robert Fawcett yesterday said that two of eight computer climate models monitored by the center are predicting rising Pacific Ocean temperatures, a precursor to El Niño. "Two of the models are saying that some of the necessary factors for El Niño are in place," Fawcett said. "At this stage it is a possibility, but we don't think the probability has reached 50 percent yet. But because of the possible consequence of El Niño we are monitoring it closely," he said. El Niño occurs, on average, every seven years, bringing drought to some regions of the world and heavier rainfall to others.

Kiwis demand tougher terms for killers

WELLINGTON—Hundreds of people demanding tougher punishment for violent criminals protested outside courthouses across New Zealand on Friday to show support for a man convicted for threatening to kill the murderer of his stepdaughter. Extra security was imposed at courthouses as the angry protesters showed their support for Mark Middleton, who publicly warned authorities he would kill his child's killer if the man was released from jail after serving a life term, normally 10 years. Middleton, 44, was given a nine-month prison term for making the threats, but the sentence was suspended for two years. Sentencing judge Michael Lance told Middleton courts would not tolerate vigilante justice. "The lynch mob approach is quite unacceptable," he said.

North Koreans celebrate Kim's birthday

SEOUL—North Korea yesterday celebrated Kim Jong-il's 39th birthday with festivals, rallies and pledges of loyalty to the totalitarian leader. The communist North has celebrated Kim's birthday as one of its biggest holidays since 1995. Kim took the rein over the impoverished country after his father, President Kim Il-sung, died in 1994. On Friday, state-run newspapers and government-organized rallies urged North Koreans to support Kim, who is trying to rebuild the economy, devastated by years of communist mismanagement and natural disasters.



KIM

TALIBAN BAN

Opium production wiped out

JALALABAD, Afghanistan—UN drug control officers said the Taliban religious militia has virtually wiped out opium production in Afghanistan—once the world's largest producer—since banning poppy cultivation in July.

A 12-member team from the UN Drug Control Program spent two weeks searching most of the nation's largest opium-producing areas and found so few poppies that they do not expect any opium to come out of Afghanistan this year.

"We are not just guessing. We have seen the proof in the fields," said Bernard Frahi, regional director for the UN program in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He laid out photographs of vast tracts of land cultivated with wheat alongside pictures of the same fields taken a year earlier—a sea of blood-red poppies.

A State Department official said Thursday all the information the United States has received so far indicates the poppy crop had decreased, but he did not believe it was eliminated.

Last year, Afghanistan produced nearly 4,000 tons of opium, about 75 percent of the world's supply, UN officials said. Opium—the milky substance drained from the poppy plant—is converted into heroin and sold in Europe and North America. The 2000 output was a world record for opium production, the United Nations said—more than all other countries combined, including the "Golden Triangle," where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Burma meet.

Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban's supreme leader, banned poppy growing before the November planting season and augmented it with a religious edict making it contrary to the tenets of Islam.

The Taliban, which has imposed a strict brand of Islam in the 95 percent of Afghanistan it controls, has set fire to heroin laboratories and jailed farmers until they agreed to destroy their poppy crops.

The UN surveyors, who completed their search this week, crisscrossed Helmand, Kandahar, Urzgan and Nangarhar provinces and parts of two others—areas responsible for 86 percent of the opium produced in Afghanistan last year, Frahi said in an interview Wednesday. They covered 80 percent of the land in those provinces that last year had been awash in poppies.

This year they found poppies growing on barely an acre here and there, Frahi said. The rest—about 70,000 hectares—was clean.

"We have to look at the situation with careful optimism," said Sandro Tucci of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Vienna, Austria.

He said indications are that no poppies were planted this season and that, as a result, there hasn't been any production of opium—but that officials would keep checking.

The State Department counternarcotics official said the department would make its own estimate of the poppy crop. Information received so far suggests there will be a decrease, but how much is not yet clear, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.



AFGHAN farmer Abdur Rehman who used to grow poppy and made good money sits in his field with his sons in Jalalabad. Now he grows onions.

But ban, drought forcing Afghans to sell daughters

JALALABAD, Afghanistan—Dirt-poor farmers, unable to pay their debts because of a Taliban ban on growing the flower that produces opium, are trading their young daughters to clear their debts, UN and Taliban officials say.

"I just talked to a farmer who said: 'I gave my small daughter to the one I got a loan from,'" said Amir Mohammed Haqqani, the Taliban's chief anti-narcotics man in Nangarhar province, which was the second-largest opium-producing region last year.

Farmers traditionally use opium as a source of credit, borrowing against the next year's harvest, said Bernard Frahi, director of the UN Drug Control Program in neighboring Afghanistan.

But this year, there was no harvest because of an edict banning cultivation of the poppy, the crimson-red flower that produces opium.

Combined with a devastating drought that has killed off entire herds, destroyed crops, turned 80,000 people into refugees in their own country

and forced another 170,000 fleeing to neighboring Pakistan, the ban has left many farmers destitute, authorities said.

"I talked to this uncle who gave away his 7-year-old niece whose parents had died for three bags of 150 kilograms of wheat," Hans-Christiaan Poulsen of the UN office for the coordination of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan said in western Herat. "This shows how desperate they are."

In deeply conservative Afghanistan, girls often are married off at puberty. According to tradition, the family of the groom pays the bride's parents for their daughters.

But girls are now being handed over in marriage at a much younger age to grooms who often are in their late 20s and early 30s, Poulsen said.

"The age is going down and they are going much further away to live with their new husbands," he said.

We regret to announce the
CANCELLATION
of the
**BEAR BRAND
KITEFEST 2001**
in Legazpi City, Bicol.

As we brace ourselves for the impending eruption of Mayon Volcano, we at Nestlé Philippines, Inc. have decided to cancel the kitefest scheduled this Sunday, February 18, 2001.

We join the whole country in praying that no disaster will come to our brothers in the Bicol region. Hopefully, we will see each other once more at the next kitefest. We look forward to seeing the kites of Bicol flying high.



**KITEFEST
2001**

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Smuggled goods seized

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Naval Forces South last week intercepted some P1.2-million worth of imported goods and chemicals loaded in a motor launch. Apprehended off the shore of Tulian Island in Sulu, was the M/L Nurhaida IV. It was loaded with 700 sacks of ammonium nitrate, 105 sacks of imported sugar, 50 bales of used clothes, 30 sacks of imported noodles, 30 sacks of plastic trash bags, three tons of Toyota Tamaraw lift springs, five pieces of 5K engines, 500 pieces of imported plywood and one Icom handheld radio. The goods reportedly came from Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia.

Julie Alipala Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau

P4M robbed from bank

LAMUT, Ifugao—Armed men robbed at least P4 million from a government bank's car along the national highway in Barangay Nayan here Tuesday. A report to the Nueva Vizcaya police office said six armed men, who were wearing military uniforms and bonnets, flagged down an L-200 pickup owned by the Land Bank of the Philippines' Lagawe branch. The robbers, armed with Armalite rifles and .45 cal pistols, disarmed the two security guards inside the pickup and ordered them and LBP assistant manager Edwin Laudencio to step out of the vehicle. The suspects took the car and drove to Nueva Vizcaya but abandoned it in Barangay Villasis in Santiago City on Wednesday.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Director's death a quiz

SAN PABLO CITY—Local police authorities are still in the dark as to whether a local TV station director committed suicide or was a victim of foul play. Ranel Tibillo, 29, managing director of Telmar Channel 21 was found lying in a pool of blood early Feb. 6 inside his residence in Barangay Calihan here, while his two cameramen were allegedly having coffee outside. Police investigators recovered a .22 cal. pistol beside the victim's body.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Copra price hike urged

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Coconut farmers in Southern Tagalog led by the Katipunan ng Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan recently picketed the Philippine Coconut Authority office in Quezon City to demand an increase in the prices of copra and coconut. They are demanding a raise in copra prices from P4 to at least P16, and coconut prices from a range of P.25 to P1.50 a piece. Orly Marcellana, Kasama-TK secretary general, claimed that the prevailing copra price cannot support a farm family's daily needs.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

No surrender for driver

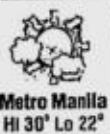
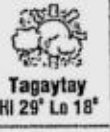
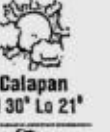
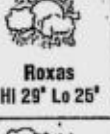
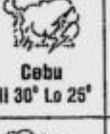
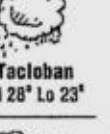
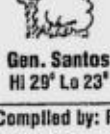
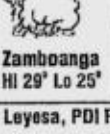
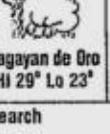
LEGAZPI CITY—The driver of the Peñafrancia Tours bus that collided with a Kia van along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Calzada, Oas, Albay reportedly wants to surrender but fellow drivers said Garchie Ruiz, driver of the bus, was afraid the bus company owner might not help him in the case. They said Ruiz, who believed he would be acquitted, feared that he might suffer the fate of other drivers who were left to suffer in jail while their cases were pending resolution. Eight persons died and at least 10 others were seriously injured during the accident.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern sections. Luzon will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rain showers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

 Metro Manila HI 30° Lo 22°	 Baguio HI 25° Lo 11°	 Tuguegarao HI 27° Lo 20°	 Laog HI 30° Lo 20°
 Clark Zone HI 30° Lo 20°	 Tagaytay HI 29° Lo 18°	 Legazpi HI 30° Lo 20°	 Calapan HI 30° Lo 21°
 Bacolod HI 29° Lo 23°	 Roxas HI 29° Lo 25°	 Cebu HI 30° Lo 25°	 Tacloban HI 28° Lo 23°
 Gen. Santos HI 29° Lo 23°	 Zamboanga HI 29° Lo 25°	 Cagayan de Oro HI 29° Lo 23°	 Davao HI 28° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
Barangay 34 (Oro site),
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 480-8099
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail:
inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St.,
Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346 /
233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail:
pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
479-c General Luna St.,
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-7122
Fax No. (082) 227-6723
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.weblnq.com

Old 'jueteng' lords back

BAGUIO CITY—Veteran jueteng lords have wrested back control of illegal gambling in the provinces from a younger set of operators that dealt exclusively with Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson in Malacñang between 1998 and 2000, a police investigator here said.

He said jueteng operations in Baguio were originally controlled by a Tarlac investor who shared revenue and territory with a jueteng financier based in Pampanga.

But the old network in 1998 was taken over by a new team of gambling lords.

The investigator, who requested anonymity, said the new jueteng operators were beholden to Charlie "Atong" Ang, a close friend of ousted President Joseph Estrada, because they were promised an even larger revenue

share once the government-run Bingo 2-Ball took over jueteng.

"(Singson listed these new gambling lords down at the height of Juetengate) but that list involved new jueteng lords who displaced the older gambling lords, because they had a direct line to Malacñang. None of these people was even arrested during the (impeachment) trial. Not even the fellow running jueteng in Baguio," the source said in Filipino.

Guerrilla jueteng operations have since resumed in five Benguet towns and in Baguio City, said Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, Cordillera police director.

Jueteng bet collectors here had been approaching betting haunts such as sari-sari stores and public markets since Feb. 1, dropping

the name of a Tarlac politician as the new jueteng financier.

"The bets have grown again. Jueteng is the fad again," a sari-sari storeowner here said.

Singson testified before Estrada's impeachment trial that he coordinated national jueteng operations on behalf of the ousted president.

He blew the whistle on some 10 alleged gambling lords in Luzon, who contributed to a P5-million pool fund supposedly issued as monthly payoffs to Estrada.

None of these gambling lords has been visible since Singson's exposé.

Lawyer Pablo Sanidad, Singson's lawyer, said police officials "completely lost track of them" after the Juetengate scandal

broke in October and led to Estrada's ouster last month.

Singson named one Romy Lajara as the alleged financier of jueteng operations in Baguio, although police records here indicated that Lajara had no records in local police files.

This operation contributed P250,000 to Estrada's alleged P5-million revenue, Sanidad said.

Unearthing a copy of Singson's documented evidence, Sanidad said the governor's accounting revealed that Lajara may have owed Estrada P500,000 because he failed to submit his contributions in December 1998.

Baguio contributions were stopped when Bingo 2-Ball was introduced simultaneously in Luzon, including Baguio, on Sept. 16 last year. *Vincent Cabreza with a report from Yolanda Fuentes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

The 2001-2002 PLDT - DPC

Telephone Directory Cover

15th Visual Art National Competition

Theme: "ILOG PASIGlahin"

Congratulations
Winners:



Grand Prize

RONNIE T. TRES REYES

University of the East-Kalookan
"Ang Ilog Pasig Noon, Ay Siya na Muli Ngayon"
29" x 29", oil/ acrylic

Exhibit until February 24, 2001 Ayala Museum, Makati City



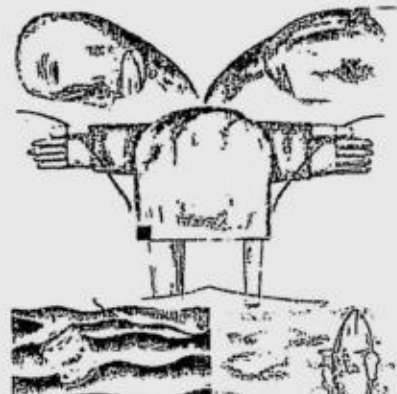
2nd

FROILAN L. CALAYAG
Technological University of the Philippines
"Sa Ilog, Ang Misteryosong Nais Makita"
29" x 29", mixed media



3rd

RICKY V. AMBAGAN
University of the Philippines-Diliman
"Ang Ilog Pasig Noon, Ay Siya na Muli Ngayon"
29" x 29", mixed media



4th

ISAGANI C. MONJE
Technological University of the Philippines
"Panunbakin ang Dating Sigla Tunga sa Kinabukasan ng Bawat Isa..."
29" x 29", oil on canvas



5th

CONCHITA Z. LUZARRAGA
College of the Holy Spirit
"Pag-ahon sa Kinabukasan"
24" x 24", mixed media

1st Honorable Mention
CARLO M. CAACBAY
Bulacan State University
"Natitirang Buhay, Muling Bigyang Kulay at Husay ng Ating Mga Kamay"
29" x 29", acrylic

2nd Honorable Mention
JERRY R. MANINANG
University of the East-Kalookan
"PASIGlahin NATIN ITO"
27" x 27", mixed media

3rd Honorable Mention
PATRICK F. LACHICA
FEATI University
"Ani ng Ilog"
27" x 27", acrylic and glue on board

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In 1996, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature listed

"The success of the program lies in the cooperation of the people living in these areas," said Director Reynaldo Bayabos of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau. **Dennis Maliwanag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Cabbie admits getting money to drop case vs US sailors

It was Carillo who facilitated the withdrawal of the cases, Batestil said. Batestil's admission came two days

But he said there was nothing wrong if indeed he received the money because "we (lawyers) are entitled to whatever fees in every case."

The taxi driver claimed the payoff took place two days before the arraignment of the cases on March 30, 2000. He said Rose and her husband

"I didn't know what was it, I trusted Rose and Carillo because they read it. I was not even given a copy," he said in Cebuano.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

A Statement of Thanksgiving of the Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines

Abra Tingguian Community Association; Aeta Development Association (ADA), Subic, Zambales; AMA-Angeles, Pampanga; AMA-Bacay, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija; Apo Sandawa Lumadnong Panaghulsa sa Cotabato (ASLPC); Aribungos Barangay Tribal Association (ABTA), Aribungos, Palawan; Bago Association; Bambang Aeta Tribal Association (BATA); Banaauw-Arudingangan ni Kiya-bapo-apoan (BANRAK), Berong; Bangsa it Palawano Tribal Community Association (BPTCA), Cacarigan, Aramaywan; Bayaan it Kampong it Tagbanua kat Barake (BKTB), Barake; Bayangan-Towao Association; Bonyong it Pala'wan Du' Dibwatan it Quezon (BPDO), Isugod / Bonyong it Pala'wan Du' Samahan Quezon' (BP SQ), Taguasao; Bucao Resettlement Association, Zambales; Bucao Tribal Council (BTC), Botolan, Zambales; Bugkalot Ancestral Land Association; Cadmang Ayta Association, Zambales; Campong it Mapangarapan it Palawan (CAMPAL), Campong Ulay, Rizal, Palawan; Cawag Resettlement, Subic, Zambales; Central Subanon Tribal Association Inc.; Confederation of Bugkalot Associations; Dapitan City Federation of Tribal Council; Dipolog Indigenous Peoples Groups (DIPAG); Grand Alliance of Bukidnon (GABI); Happy Hallow Tribal Association; Higa-onon Tribal Development Organization, Inc.; Indigenous Cultural Communities Economic Development Foundation Inc.; Indigenous Peoples Professional Organization (IPPO); Iplian, Brooke's Point Tribal Association (LIBTA), Linao, Iplian, Palawan; Iram Settlers Upland Farmers Association (ISUFA), Zambales; Isabela Indigenous Cultural Communities Foundation, Inc.; Kabunuyon Barang Undang-undang Adat nang Narendaman (KABUAN) Upi, Canipaan, Rizal, Palawan; Kahugpungan sa Lumadnong PagPagdumalahan sa Cotabato (KLPC); Kalanguya Tribal Federation; Kalawit Tribal Council; Kalibugan Federation of Tribal Council; KATIPAN; Katutubong Samahan ng Madahon (KASAMA), Madahon; Katutubong Samahan ng mga Pari at Relihiyoso sa Pilipinas (KASARAP); Katutubong Samahan ng Pilipinas (KASAPI); Katutubong Tribu ng Buwangin San Vicente (KATRIBU), Bohuanguin; Kinabuhay ng Kinalyahian, Inc. (KKI), Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur; KINASARAN; Komunidad ng Anuan, Polillo Island; Komunidad ng Yokyok, Gen. Nakar, Quezon; Komunidad ng Agta ng Anuan, Polillo Island, Quezon; Komunidad ng Agta ng Dinigman, Gen. Nakar, Quezon; Komunidad ng Agta ng Karlagan, Polillo Island, Quezon; Komunidad ng Agta ng Tamala, Gen. Nakar, Quezon; Limnangcong Minorities (LUCMA), Limnangcong; Lubos na Alyansa ng mga Ayta ng Sambales (LAKAS), Zambales; Mailbong Bodong Banao Federation (MBBF), Mailbong, Abra; Maporac Aeta Organization (MAO), Cabangan, Zambales; asagisag na Katutubong Samahan sa Binga (MAKASABI), Binga; Mindanao Traditional Tribal Leaders Association (MTTLA); MUGTUBUDE; Nagkakisang Katawhan sa Talaingod (NAKATA); Nagkakaisang mga Tagbanua sa Boong (NAGTAGBO), Boong; Nagkakaisang mga Tribu ng Palawan sa Bgy. Iraray (NTBPI), Iraray; Nagkakaisang mga Tribu ng Aramaywan at Berong (NATRIABE), Aramaywan; Nagkakaisang mga Tribu ng Daan (SANATAD), Apurawan; Nagkakaisang mga Tribu sa Tena Culandamon (NATRIITE), Tena, Culandamon; Nagkakaisang Tribu ng Palawan (NATRIPAL); Nagkakaisang Tribu sa Mate (NATRIMAT), Mate, Palawan; Negros Occidental Federation of Tribal Communities; Northern Davao Tribes Association; Nagkakaisa ng mga Katutubo sa Babuyan (PKB); Pangngemeng e Tanang Kaadatan it Pala'wan (PITPKI), Paikpikan, Punta-Beja, I, Palawan; Pamantolon Tribal Association (PTA), Pamantolon; Pambansang Lupon ng Nakatatanda sa Tribu (PLANT); Pangool Tribal Minorities Association (PTMA), Pangool; Pangkahatagan Samahan ng mga Katutubo sa Banbanan (PAKABA), Banbanan; Panlalawigan Asosasyon ng mga Ayta sa Bataan (PANABAT); Penagsembatan it mga Palawan kat Soked (PNS), Isumbo; Pinagkaisang Aeta ng Pinatubo; Pinagsanbatan mga Palawan du' Bayog (SPBB) Bayog, Cabar, Brooke's Point, Palawan; Pinaglibukan it mga Palawa'an (PINPAL), Punta Baja, Rizal, Palawan; Pinaglibukan it mga Tao' Bato (PINATABA), Candawaga, Palawan; Pinatubo Assistance For Aeta Aest Human Tribu (PAPAHT), Botolan, Zambales; Posakat mga Pala'wan at Suwangin (PPS), Suwangin; Puwirsa

The Supreme Court's decision on IPRA brings fresh hope and renewed fervor in our struggle for authentic development and peoples' participation in nation building. It is this hope that allows us to celebrate and look forward to the committed implementation of the IPRA in its letter and spirit. We have faith in the Macapagal-Arroyo Administration to make this hope a reality. A first step would be to reorganize the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and to appoint qualified, honest and competent genuine representatives of the Indigenous Peoples. Another crucial step is to have a Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) championing the cause of environmental protection and Indigenous Peoples Rights.



ng mga Katutubo sa San Jose (SKSJ), San Jose; Samahan ng mga Katutubo sa Timbuan, Roxas (SKTR), Timbuan, Abaron; Samahan ng mga Katutubong Palawan sa Bonog (SKPB), Palawan; Samahan ng mga Katutubong Palawa'an sa Salogon (SKPS), Palawan; Samahan ng mga Katutubong Palawan sa Punang (SKPPB), Punang; Samahan ng mga Katutubong Tagbuanu na nainirahan sa Manalo (STNM); Samahan ng mga Katutubong Tagbuanu sa Sagpangan (SAKTAS), ARAMA'YWAN; Samahan ng mga Palawa'-an-K'ney sa Mainit (SPKM), Mainit, Palawan; Samahan ng mga Palawano sa Amas Brooke's Point (SPABP), Amas, Palawan; Samahan ng mga Palawano sa Bulalacao (SPB), Bulalacao, Bataraza, Palawan; Samahan ng mga Tagbuanu sa Gogogonan (ISTGA), Gogogonan, Palawan; Samahan ng mga Tagbuanu sa Kabigaan, Aborlan (SMU), Kabigaan, Palawan; Samahan ng mga Tagbuanu sa Mangangalalak sa Labtay Napsan (SKTLN), Labtay, Palawan; Samahan ng mga Tagbuanu sa San Rafael (STSR), San Rafael, Palawan; Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Tribong Hanunuo; Samahan ng mga Tagbuanu sa Sta. Lourdes (STSL), Sta. Lourdes, Palawan; Samahan sa Iratat Irawan ng mga Tagbuanu sa Taga-Ud (SAKATAGATA), Taga-ud, Palawan; Samahan sa Maruyugon ng Tanang Tagbuanu (SAMATATAG), Maruyugon, Palawan; Samahang Inaasahan ng mga Katutubong Tagbuanu sa Almaghangon (SIKAP), Palawan; Samahang Pagkakaisa ng mga Katutubo Tagbuanu sa Marufinas (SPKTM), Palawan; Samahang Pagkakaisa ng mga Taga Iraan (SPI), Iraan, Sto. Tomas, Palawan; Sambayangan ng Tagbuanu Kat Sipucan (STBSI), Simpucan, Palawan; Sangretan Sungsungulan it Tagbuanu kat Iraan (SASTI), Iraan, Palawan; Saptan Adat it Kapagran-gurangan Tagna it mga Palawan (SAKTIP), Ransang, Palawan; Sibongon Highlanders Association, Inc.; Sicoon Subanon Association Inc.; Sofronio Española; Southern Subanon Tribal Upliftment ; Subanen Alliance for Development, Inc. (SADI); Subanen Community of Bagong Valencia, Zamboanga del Sur; Subanen Community of Cogonan, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur; Subanen Community of Dulan, Bagong Silang, Zamboanga del Sur; Subanen Community of Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur; Subanen Community of Langapod, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur; Subanen Community of Tagun, Zamboanga del Sur; Subanen Community of Tamurayan, Zamboanga del Sur; Subanon Indigenous Cultural Communities of Gutalec Inc.; Suminao Higaonon Tribal Association (SUHITRA); Susulit it Tagbuanu Kat Panacan (STP), Panacan; Tagbuanu na Nainirahan sa Silito Karlaon (TABAK), Caruray; Tinig ng mga Katutubo sa Kabayugan (TIKA), Kabayugan; Tribal Union Agricultural Development (TUNAD); TUDUPA; Union of Subanen Tribal Communities in Mindanao, Inc. (USTRICOM); Uronyogan it Tagbuanu Kat Mariwara Narra (UTNM) Cattle, Mariwara; Wea Resettlement, Subic, Zambales; Western Mindanao Development Federation of Tribal Council, Inc.; Ya Boces ka mga Katutubo o Maglanes Ca Yacal (YABOCES), Yacal; Zamboanga Del Norte Hillside Federation Inc.

Tabang Mindanaw; Assisi Development Foundation, Inc.; National Peace Conference; National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace (CBCP-NASSA); Tanggapaning Panligang Katutubong Pilipino (PANLIPI); Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples (CBCP-ECIP); Indigenous Peoples Apostolate of the Archdioceses of Cagayan de Oro, Cotabato, Davao, Jaro, Nueva Segovia, Ozamis and San Fernando (Pampanga); Indigenous Peoples Apostolate of the Dioceses of Bangue, Bayombong, Balanga, Butuan, Daei, Digos, Dipolog, Iba, Ilagan, Kalibo, Kidapawan, Laoag, Malolos, Marbel, Mati, Pagadian, San Fernando (La Union), Surigao, Tagum and Tandag; Indigenous Peoples Apostolate of the Prelatures of Infanta and Iplil; Indigenous Peoples Apostolate of the Vicariates of Baguio-Benguet, Bontoc-Lagawe, Palawan, Paan Jose, and Tabuk, Kalinga and Apayao; Katutubong Samarang ng mga Puri at Rehiyonghosa sa Pilipinas (KASARAP); Tribal Development Foundation of the Phils, Inc.; Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit - Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office; Indigenous People's Rights Advocates; Tribal Education on Ecological System (TRES) Inc., Tagum City, Davao

Samahang ng mga Katutubo (PUSAKA), Sumbiling, Bataraza, Palawan; Sadling Yamen Asosasyon (SADYAAS), Barangonan, Iloc, Abordo; Samahang ng Katutubo ng Poombato (SKP), Zamboales; Samahang ng Magasaka ng Calib-on (SAMACA), Botolan, Zambales; Samahang ng mga Iratag Irawan ng mga Tagbanua (SIT), Iratag; Samahang ng mga Katutubo (SAMAKA), Maoyon; Samahang ng mga Katutubo sa Bubusawin (SKB), Bubusawin; Samahang ng mga Katutubo sa Imulind (SKI), Imulind, Palawan; Samahang ng mga Katutubo sa Kayasan (SATRIKA), Cayasan; Samahang ng mga Katutubo sa Napsan (SAMAKANA), Sto. Niño; Samahang ng mga Katutubo sa San Carlos (SKSC), San Carlos; Samahang

del Norte; Tribal Professionals of Students' Solidarity Inc., Tagum City, Davao del Norte (TRIPSS DN-DO); RECAP Foundation, Inc., Tagum City, Davao del Norte; SILDAP-SIDLAKAN, Inc., Tagum City, Davao del Norte; Tribal Filipino Program (TFP) Kidapawan; Mangyan Mission, Vicariate of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro; Tribal Center for Development (TCD) Infanta, Quezon; St. Francis Learning Center, Subic, Zambales; Center for Social Concerns and Development, Dingle City, Zamboanga del Norte; Kinabuhay na Kinalaingan, Incorporated, Zamboanga del Sur

Rising tuition aggravates C. Luzon families' poverty

TARLAC CITY—The rising costs of tuition and other fees in state colleges and universities are taking its toll on low-income families in Central Luzon, a study showed.

But while these families endured financial hardships as a result of sending their children to colleges and universities, "they would make sacrifices to cope with (the difficulties) since they view education as their only hope out of poverty," said Dr. Lolita Siat of the Tarlac State University Graduate School.

In her study "Capacity of state colleges and universities (SCU) students to cope with tuition hikes," Siat sought to determine the socio-economic status of more than 500 randomly selected students from six government-owned colleges and universities in Central Luzon.

These are the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) and the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST) in Nueva Ecija; the Tarlac State University (TSU) and the Tarlac College of Agriculture (TCA) in Tarlac; and the Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC) and the Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trade (DHVCAT) in Pampanga.

Using the student-respondents' socio-economic profiles, Siat measured their families' capacity to absorb increases in school fees.

"Majority of the SCU student-respondents are living below the poverty line, enjoying only the simplest amenities in life. Their families send them to SCUs because these schools are supposed to charge lower rates than private institutions," Siat said. "But they are barely coping with the present school fees."

Close to 60 percent of the respondents came from families earning monthly incomes ranging from P1,000 to P7,000, the study showed.

The study also revealed that 72.9 percent of the student-respondents were living below the poverty level and 17.9 percent along the poverty line. About 5 percent were described as "low average," 2.8 percent as "middle average," 0.7 percent as "high average" and 0.4 percent as "high."

While 85.6 percent of the students sampled had houses owned by their families and almost all of them had appliances such as TV sets (92.3 percent), electric fans (86.2 percent) a cassette or compact disc players (87.3 percent) and washing machines (57.4 percent), "their income remains too meager for them to live comfortably."

Having used the 1997 poverty threshold for rural communities of P10,000 income a month, Siat said "more would have fallen under the poverty line because the figures are much, much higher today."

"In general, SCU students come from low-income families with an average of four children and living in modest homes with simple amenities. . . . But their families have regular income so they could be sent to school, if painstakingly," the study said.

Except for the CLSU, which continued to charge the old rates of P500 to P1,000 a semester, school fees in the other five SCUs had increased by as much as 300 percent, the study showed.

For school year 2000-2001, semestral fees cost P3,000-P3,500 at TSU; P1,000-P2,000 at TCA, DHVCAT and NEUST; and P1,000-P1,500 at PAC, Siat said.

"These rates do not include expenses on books and school contributions like socialization and membership fees," she said.

She said the CLSU was never compelled to raise its school fees because "it receives international grants and aids for research and other projects."

"Given their income, the respondents' families have reasons to complain of the rising costs of tuition and other school fees. Since their capacity to pay is already low because of their low income, the hikes could only worsen their situation," she said.

"Thus, these families hardly make both ends meet. So what they do is send older (children) to college and make younger (children) drop (out of) school to let the older (children) graduate. After graduation, the older children (would then)

share the responsibility in sending their younger brother or sister to school," she said.

Cecilia Nerida, TSU vice president, said the decreasing amount of subsidies from the national government was forcing SCUs to look for other sources of funds.

School fees, she said, are one source of revenues for SCUs. "Otherwise, the school would have to cut its curricular program, which means less offerings and more limits on enrollment," she said.

According to the government's National Expenditures Program, appropriations for the TSU have gone down from P90 million in

2000 to P88 million in 2001; for DHVCAT, P70 million to P68 million; PAC, P72 million to P71 million; NEUST, P123 million to P115 million; TCA, P71 million to P67 million; and CLSU, P218 million to P205 million.

Nerida said TSU's maintenance, operating and other expenses would be cut by more than 25 percent this year, from P18.623 million in 2000 to P13.787 million in 2001.

"There is an implied message that SCUs would soon be privatized, although, according to a senator, this would happen only after about 50 years," she said. **Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

2 Negros mayors, vice mayor suspended

BY CARLA GÓMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Barely two months before the elections, two mayors, a vice mayor and three city officials have been ordered suspended for 90 days for various offenses.

Suspended without pay were Mayor Edwin Velez and City Accountant Eli Alminaza, City Treasurer Arturo Siason and City Budget Officer Salvador Ascalon, of Silay City; and Mayor Jechonias Manzano and Vice Mayor Lory Lambot of Candoni town.

In a memorandum on Feb. 8, Local Government Secretary Jose Lina ordered Gov. Rafael Coscolluela to implement a court order suspending Velez and the three Silay City officials.

Lina also ordered Vice Mayor Jose Locsin to temporarily take over as Silay mayor.

Coscolluela, however, said he has

yet to receive an official copy of Lina's memorandum.

RTC Judge Felipe Banson of Silay suspended Velez and the three city officials last Oct. 9 for violating an election ban on the release of funds for projects during election period.

But Velez said there was nothing illegal when he released P400,000 for a livelihood project shortly before the 1998 elections because it was a "continuing project" which, he said, was exempted from the ban.

He said if the order was enforced, he would run for reelection because his suspension cut short his third term.

The two Candoni officials were accused of misusing the loan of the municipal government that was originally intended for livelihood projects.

Governor Coscolluela said he was still checking if the order would not violate the election ban on the transfer and suspension of government officials and employees.

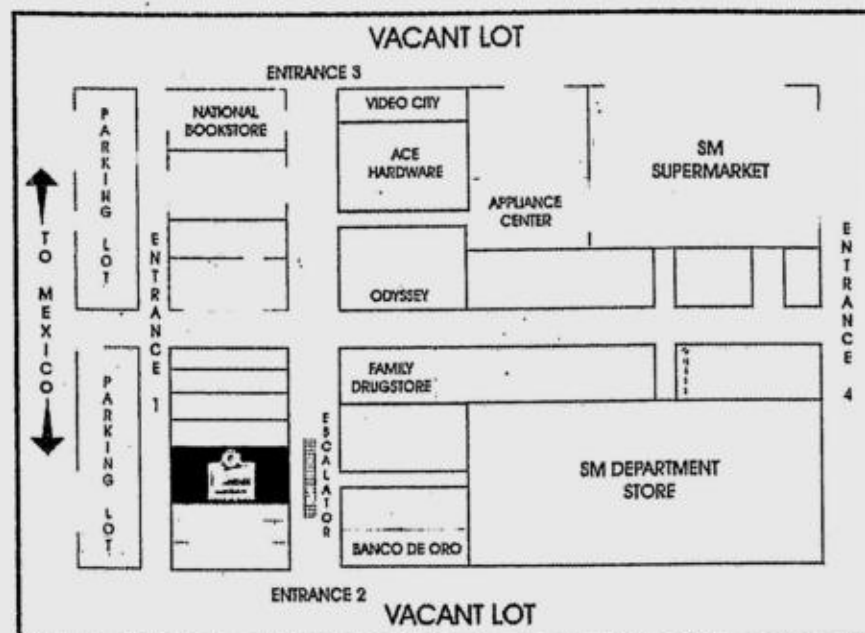
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Trial of Javier slay case faces more delays

BY HAZEL VILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—The hearing of the Evelio Javier murder case has been set to next month.

Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Regional Trial Court here, the new judge handling the case, has scheduled the hearing on March 27, 28, and 29.

Castrojas, former Iloilo City prosecutor and the fourth judge to preside over the Javier case, cancelled all the January hearings because he had to take an immersion program for new judges.

Castrojas replaced Judge Sylvia Jurao of the Antique RTC, Branch 10. Before she was taken off the case, Jurao had set the next hearings for the Javier case on Jan. 22, 23 and 24.

Jurao temporarily held the post left vacant in 1996 by Judge Antonio Natino of the RTC Branch 12. Natino requested the Supreme Court to relieve him of his duties and he was replaced by Jurao in 1997. Jurao handled cases in two court branches.

The first judge, who handled the Javier case in 1995, was Judge Bonifacio Sanz Maceda whom Javier's lawyers had moved to be taken off the case because he was perceived to be biased for Pacificador.

Javier was slain by gunmen on the steps of the Provincial Capitol here on Feb. 12, 1986 during the canvassing of votes in the snap elections.

His political rival, former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, was tagged as the mastermind of the killing. He and 17 others were later charged with murder.

On Feb. 12, Javier's relatives, Antique's officials, residents and guests celebrated the 15th death anniversary of Javier at the park named after him.

About 1,500 people attended the anniversary. On the same day, Javier's eldest son, Gideon, attended a program in memory of his father at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Pacificador is detained at the police jail in Antique and was reported to be roaming freely around the 2-hectare camp.

Erap loyalists remain hopeful, plan rallies

COTABATO CITY—Hundreds of supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada are expected to attend a rally here today.

Lolita Belleza, president of the Davao City-based Samahan ng mga Mamamayan ng Mindanao Para kay Erap (SMMPE), said the participants will come from all over South Central Mindanao.

They will arrive aboard cargo trucks and buses to demonstrate their defiance to Macapagal-Arroyo's installation to the presidency.

"We would like to inform our people in Mindanao that Joseph Estrada did not resign nor was he removed from Malacañang through mob rule, and therefore he is still the legitimate President of the Republic," Belleza said.

Mayor Muslimin Sema said his office allowed Belleza's group to hold the rally on condition that it

will be peaceful and orderly.

The rally permit would be good from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 17 only, Sema said.

Reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a staunch supporter of Mr. Estrada, is expected to speak at the rally.

Belleza said her group, organized during the impeachment trial, is convinced that Ms. Macapagal's ascendancy to power was "illegal and unconstitutional."

Fr. Tony Pueyo, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Cotabato, said any move to dislodge President Arroyo would destabilize the government.

Pueyo asked leaders of pro-Erap movements "to stop hallucinating" and pray that the former President will be able to face all the charges against him. **Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

INQUIRER Visayas

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Where to now, 'Boom City?'

BY FELIX CODILLA III
Ormoc City

THE PAST decade saw the rise of this once sleepy city to become the most economically promising place in Eastern Visayas. Ormoc folk enjoyed a kind of prosperity they never before experienced as the city began to flex its economic muscle, drawing the attention even of rival Tacloban City.

The "boom" was largely attributed to the massive expansion of the Leyte Geothermal Production Field in Barangay Tongonan, that required increasing its capacity to nearly 1,000 megawatts, making it the largest geothermal source in the world, a distinction that once belonged to the United States.

With a project cost of \$2 billion, the money that circulated in the city boosted Ormoc folk's purchasing power several fold and spurred activities that further stimulated the growing economy.

Ormocanons witnessed with a mixture of awe and disbelief as restaurants and nationally known fast-food outlets flourished and large buildings that could only be found in urban cities took shape like shopping malls, hotels, an ultramodern coliseum and a swank market complex that boasts of multilevel parking and a skywalk.

Real estate costs skyrocketed overnight as land speculators took advantage of the upswing in subdivision development. Office space rentals have tripled since 1993. The city's lone department store, Gaisano, increased the rental of its commercial spaces to P975 per square foot from P250 per sq. ft. when it first opened seven years ago. From a low P5,000 per sq. meter, prices of commercial sites increased to an unbelievable P20,000 per sq. m., depending on the location.

Vehicular traffic rose with the Land Transportation Office recording 50 new vehicles in the city annually. The transportation industry saw its golden years when up to 15 rent-a-car operators competed with each other.

Back to reality

But after all the hoopla, the economic bonanza turned out to be short-lived. The foreign contractors involved in the geothermal project that brought in all those dollars one by one packed up and disappeared.

The city was left with facilities and businesses that would have catered to the multinational companies but which the local market was unable to sustain. Office buildings were left empty, many even until today. New businesses that were completed just after the "boom" were off to a shaky start.

Compounding the situation was the currency crisis in July 1997 that sent interest rates soaring to dizzying heights, sending even the largest companies in Asia to their knees.

Ormocanons felt the pinch through layoffs, reduced workdays and sluggish business activities. In the local courts, a significant rise in the number of cases involving bouncing checks from prominent families was noted.

But while other countries survived the crisis and crawled their way back to the top, the Philippines sank deeper into economic quagmire during the Estrada administration. Faced with the prospect of an uncertain future, the main concern that occupies the minds of the local business community now is how to bring back the good old times.

Amado Rey Salvame, who runs a computer school and repair store, believed that Ormoc was on its way to urbanization had the growth momentum during the early and mid-1990s was sustained. But since the city's development came to a grinding halt, Ormoc's one chance to become urbanized disappeared.

Before its economic awakening, Ormoc's limited infrastructure were so inferior, these became a major drawback to its improvement. The city's relatively high internal revenue allotment partially solved this with the local government's concentration on roads and street lighting.

Efforts of government agencies like the Philippine Ports Authority and the expansion of utility companies also helped.

The PPA is in the thick of upgrading and expanding the Ormoc Port, which has the highest volume of passenger traffic in the region at almost 250,000 annually, making it the premier port of Eastern Visayas.

No airport

However, such efforts were insufficient as vital infrastructures that would draw in big investors

are still non-existent. For lawyer Evergisto Escalon, who owns a store selling auto parts and accessories, an airport is an integral facility that would make investors consider putting money in the city.

The Ormoc airport, which is ranked as a secondary airstrip, can only accommodate light airplanes such as Fokkers, Cessnas and Beechcrafts. Its 1,210-meter runway and 70-meter taxiway have been deemed to be accident-prone for takeoffs as aircraft face the risk of overshooting the runway.

"If your office is in Manila, you'll have to fly to Cebu or Tacloban before coming to Ormoc," rued Escalon.

Rep. Victoria Larrazabal-Loesin (Leyte, 4th district) has promised to upgrade the airport with a P107-million funding from the national government. But its expansion and development has been snagged by the refusal of owners of adjacent agricultural lands to sell their property.

The improvement would have standardized the airport to enable it to accommodate bigger aircraft like B357s by extending the runway by 100 meters and widening it by 7.5 meters. Its terminal building would have also been renovated.

Arnold Elago, cost accountant at the Philippine Phosphate Fertilizer Co. inside the bustling Leyte Industrial Development Estate (Lide) in Isabel town, 47 kilometers west of the city, said an operating airport will make the proposed 20-hectare development in Ormoc more possible.

He noted that all successful industrial centers in the country have airports in their vicinities. This is the reason Lide lagged behind newer industrial parks despite its being the first industrial center in the country.

Ormoc's proposed industrial zone in the adjoining barangays of Luna, Dolores and Dayhagan is envisioned to have manufacturing and processing plants that will provide employment opportunities to locals.

Escalon said the initiative of the local government in attracting investors is also important not just for Ormoc but for Leyte as a whole. This may come in the form of tax rebates, providing preferential electric rates, an assurance of a strike-free place and other "goodies" that



EVERYTHING appears super about the Ormoc Superdome, except that it does not reflect anymore the superb economic boom that Ormoc briefly held in its hands. FELIX CODILLA III

would make outside investors take a second look at Ormoc.

But for Mitchell Loesin, son of Representative Loesin who owns the Albucera Ice Plant and Fajah General Services, the city's problem lies in not having enough land for development. While Ormoc's 45,972 hectare land area makes it the biggest city on Leyte Island, Loesin said most of the lands, including the strategically located ones, are owned by families that are not willing to sell these because these are agriculturally productive. Some families who would consider selling their property prefer to become partners or co-investors in their development, he adds.

Where are the schools?

Dr. Michael Tan, who operates a dental clinic, sees growth prospects in big schools and universities similar to that of Dumaguete City that is heavily dependent on Silliman University.

Ormoc has not been successful in this endeavor. Ormoc's educational needs are provided by five colleges offering limited courses in computer, business, education, and liberal arts. Negotiations between a business group and the Don Bosco School for the establishment of a university township did not prosper, while the local government failed to convince the Aznar brothers, owners of Cebu's Southwestern University, to put up a school in their prime lot in the

downtown area.

Tan said Cebu is the one benefiting from this situation, as a considerable amount of Ormocanons' money are spent on Cebu for their children's education. If only Ormoc could offer excellent education, the money being funneled to Cebu will remain circulating in the city instead, he said.

For Erwin Brodeth, a pharmaceutical distributor, red tape in government pulls the city down. He narrated the experience of a subdivision developer from Cebu who applied for a permit at the City Hall. Because the developer did not know anyone from the government, the person after him was issued a permit ahead of him. This experience is a reflection of the apathy or ignorance of government workers to the importance of investments in the city. A reorientation on civil servants' attitude is important to make the entire government structure business-friendly. Fortunately, the developer proceeded with his subdivision plan.

Dim tourism prospects

Prospects for tourism, which was proven to be a dollar earner by other cities, is not that bright either, said local businessman Neil Warren Chu.

"Ormoc is not exactly a good place if you're in the tourism business because, well, there's nothing—what can we offer besides Lake Danao? Our only chance to

improve our tourism (industry) is Lake Danao and Tongonan. But look at the road (going there). It's really bad," he said.

Lake Danao is the only national park in the city, located 15 km northeast of the city proper or half an hour's drive away. It is nestled 700 meters above sea level, giving it a cool climate. Aside from the 148-hectare guitar-shaped lake, it offers a variety of flora and fauna that makes it ideal for trekking and camping.

Despite the drawbacks, Salvame is confident that there is still hope for Ormoc's goal of becoming the premier city in Eastern Visayas.

He said the state of Ormoc's economy represents the volatility of national affairs. Now that the political and economic climate has normalized with President Macapagal-Arroyo taking over the reins of government, he is optimistic Ormoc will be one of the first places that will benefit from the recovery, as long as its government and business community are focused on a unified goal.

He also expressed belief that the development of the industrial center and airport should be prioritized as these will serve as catalysts for future growth. Then probably, Ormoc's deficiencies in education, tourism, land development and government's approach and treatment toward business will improve for the better.

Ilonggo filmfest: Hiligaynon on screen

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

THIS city witnessed the rebirth of Ilonggo cinema after the success of the recently concluded film festival, which showcased three pioneering Ilonggo short films.

Paulo Villaluna, co-director of this year's Pelikula at Lipunan, an annual festival of independent and art films, said the festival here, Feb. 7-11, is the third best in eight years.

"This only shows that Ilonggos are highly appreciative of art and independent films," he said.

The premiere night of the Ilonggo films—"Dihon," "Batchoy" and "Hulot" at SM City Cinema 6 was shown to a full house.

The festival was earlier scheduled to end Feb. 10 but because of the request of viewers, organizers extended it to Feb. 11.

"We decided to extend the festival another day because of the continued throng of viewers," said Rodolfo Velasco, executive director of Mowelfund Film Institute, which sponsored the filmmaking workshop and the festival.

Alan Cabalfin, director of "Dihon," one of three pioneering Ilonggo films shown during the festival, said Ilonggo viewers were enthusiastic to see Ilonggo films in 35 mm format, similar to full-length films.

Filmmaker Nick Deocampo, director of Mowelfund Film In-

stitute, said the film festival gave birth to the regional cinema. "Manila has had its share of making and showing films. It is high time that the regions in the country contribute in this important task of building a national cinema. Iloilo has done its share and now you are here to attend the rebirth of a regional cinema."

The film festival also caused the revival of Ilonggo films. The last time a movie in Hiligaynon was shown here was in the 1970s with "Gina-uhaw Ako," the first and only full-length movie in Hiligaynon, produced by Ilonggo real estate broker and writer Quin Baterna. The movie starred Susan Henson and Bernard Bonnin.

'Donation'

The festival organizers were, however, disappointed with the lukewarm response of the Iloilo City government. Villaluna said the city government asked for a 15 percent "donation" from the gross receipts of the festival.

In Manila, the festivals were exempted from taxes because of their literary and educational purposes.

Both the city and provincial government failed to fund the film festival even as they gave financial support to the Dinagyang festival held last month. The city government contributed P1.1 million including an P80,000 subsidy to participating tribes.

Velasco said the city government also backed out from co-sponsoring the film workshop last year after Mowelfund had raised 50 percent of the estimated P700,000 needed in holding the filmmaking workshop.

"Despite our disappointment then, we had no choice but to continue the project because of the preparations," he said.

The filmmaking workshop was attended by around 30 participants who produced the three pioneering Ilonggo films.

Despite delays in the premiere night, the audience stayed to view the films screening. Not a few found it awkward to hear Hiligaynon and Kiniray-a spoken on the big screen. A line that went "Ne, Panaw ron ta, (Nene, let us go)," a line from "Dihon" sent viewers clapping inside the 900-seat Cinema 6.

"It was a strange experience hearing the local language spoken and seeing shots in Iloilo burst into (the) big screen for the first time," said Hannah, a 21-year-old student.

They also pointed out familiar places in the scenes. "Sa Jaro Plaza na, indi sa Sta. Barbara. (That's in Jaro Plaza, not in Sta. Barbara town.)"

"Dihon," directed by Cabalfin, traces a potter's search for inspiration that leads to friendship and drives the artist to perfecting his craft.

Moviegoers were treated with idyllic scenes from the coastal town of Miag-ao in southern Iloilo. The film is best remembered for its outdoor shots that provided a panoramic view of the place.

"Dihon" is the official entry of the Philippines to the Kodak Student Program: Cinematographers' Competition 2000 in Sydney, Australia.

The audience also enjoyed the spontaneity of "Batchoy," the young boy in "Batchoyan sa Banwa" craving for Iloilo's famous

delicacy, Batchoy. The comedy is directed by Eileen Ocampo.

The film won third prize in the Kodak Cinematographers' Competition 2000—Student Category. The film's lilting melody helped create a happy mood. Its strong points include the showing of bucolic scenes in northern Iloilo.

After the two relatively light films, the viewers pondered beyond the symbolism of "Hulot," dealing with women's oppression.

"Hulot" is a narration of a woman's bondage to marriage, culture, and her view of reality. Theresa Tejero, the film director, made use of a number of symbols of oppression—votive candles, headless women, characters in a trance, mirror images, the vast expanse of ricefields and whitewashed tombs, among others.

Hulot's serious approach to women's issues and its heavy use of symbolism set it apart from the two other Ilonggo films. Students who were assigned to write a reaction paper or a review said the film's content was "heavy," and they "found it hard to understand." Hulot received raves from artists and feminists, however.

Raymond Red's "Anino," that won the Cannes Palme d'Or 2000, was also shown with the three Ilonggo films. As the strains of Yano's "Banal na Aso" was heard during the credits, the Ilonggo audience rose to its feet clapping and cheering.

The women have it

ANXIOUS yet eager are women here, expressing a sigh of relief at the extension of the deadline for the filing of candidacies for local government posts.

They are determined to run for office, but there were reasons to hesitate. One is, of course, the lack of resources.

Days are gone when one could run for a council seat with just thousands of pesos. And in those days, campaigning went on for almost a year before the elections that were held every second Tuesday of November.

But now it is not just with whom to run, but under what party to run. In old times, we had a two-party system that is composed of the Liberal Party and the Nacionalista Party. Today, however, not only do we have a multi-party system but, after Edsa 2, political affiliations turned topsy-turvy.

Now, you must know what party you are in and what you are for. The last does not seem to matter too much because many candidates do not run for ideological reasons. So, as of this month, maybe some of what I will write are speculative. But I try to check by calling the person and most of their replies are often preceded with "I was invited by... but."

Foremost in my list is high-profile third term candidate Leyte Gov. Remedios "Matin" Petilla. She is running for her third and last term as Leyte governor. Her track record speaks well, but she would be running against a most formidable opponent, former governor and ambassador

Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez. But Petilla is now head of the Lakas-NUCD that was shot back to fame after Edsa 2 as the administration party.

Her running mate is Board Member Nestor Villasin, now finishing his third term. As chair of the Leyte provincial board's finance committee for

two successive terms, he can boast of fiscal prudence in the provincial government.

Another successful woman in politics is Dr. Trinidad "Ebbie" Apostol.

Although she was not in the same political party as Governor Petilla she still won as Leyte vice governor. The wife of Rep. Sergio Apostol of the "impeachment fame," Ebbie will make a bid to take the House seat that her husband is vacating.

Again, here, Mrs. Apostol faces another Romualdez—Carlos, son of Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez.

Another woman running in Petilla's ticket is her sister who is not a newcomer in politics either. Carmen Loreto Cari is a three-term mayor of Baybay town.

The Loretos, as a political clan, have long ruled Leyte's fifth district, which could have the most votes among Leyte's five districts.

Petilla's niece, Rep. Nene Loreto Go, is a young woman but already with much political savvy. This time, however, the Loreto clan is divided. Some of them would join the Romualdez group and the others would stay with Petilla. So with the big clan split, how will they fare?

Another woman candidate under the Lakas-NUCD being supported by Petilla is Dr. Violeta Landia, who is running for reelection as mayor of Mahaplag. (To be continued)

ECHOES FROM LEYTE

Loly Perez
Isiderio



DEFACING Drilon, the candidate for senator, on a private building in Mandaluyong.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Poster rule may disqualify all candidates

(From page A1)

common poster areas. Otherwise, the Comelec said, they face disqualification or even imprisonment.

The warning came amid reports that supporters of some senatorial candidates and party-list groups have put up campaign posters on walls, electric posts, trees and other public places.

The Comelec, however, still has to successfully prosecute violators of the provision that virtually every candidate violates in every election.

Among the candidates whose posters have started dotting the metropolis are Representatives Manuel Villar, Ernesto Herrera and Ralph Recto, former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, former Press Secretary Ricardo Puno and lawyer Francis Pangilinan.

Ma. Angelina Matibag, Comelec director for information and education, said candidates are only allowed to put up campaign materi-

als in 10 common poster areas to be designated in each city or municipality.

Aside from disqualification, violators also face imprisonment of up to six months and a fine of P2,000.

The guideline is part of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 906, the Fair Elections Practices Act, set to be issued by the Comelec early next week.

Matibag said the Comelec is now accepting petitions to disqualify senatorial and party-list candidates who put up campaign materials in public places even before the start of the election period last Feb. 13 and outside common poster areas.

She said complainants must present strong evidence, like pictures, to warrant disqualification of candidates. It must also be proven that the candidate actually ordered or paid the supporters to put up posters outside the common poster areas.

Under the IRR, political parties, party-list groups and independent candidates, upon authority by the

election officer, may erect at their expense common poster areas subject to certain limitations.

Among these limitations are:

- The total number of common poster areas shall not exceed 10 in each city or municipality by councilor district.

- The location of common poster areas shall be in public places such as plazas, markets and *barangay* centers.

- Posters shall not exceed 2 feet by 3 feet.

- Each common poster area shall not exceed 13 feet by 16 feet, or a total of 192 square feet, for political parties and party-list groups and 4 feet by 6 feet, or a total of 24 square feet, for independent candidates.

- The common poster areas for party-list groups shall be allocated at one common poster area for every 32 party-list groups. For this purpose, the party-list groups shall agree among themselves who will share each common area and where each poster shall be posted in the common poster area.

Estrada bets vow to stand by him

(From page A1)

the "Pwersa ng Masa ticket" and not for the candidates being supported by the elite of Makati, whom he credited for the ouster of Estrada. Before his downfall, Estrada had accused the elite of conspiring to oust him.

The former first lady said that she decided to run because her work of helping the poor was abruptly interrupted by People Power II. She said that they only had less than half-a-day to pack their belongings.

Stressing that she was not a politician, Ejercito said that she was merely a grandmother with four grandchildren and that she was a "dutiful wife," who stood by her husband.

However, she said she was thrust into the world of politics when People Power II toppled the Estrada administration. This prompted her to ask for guidance from God.

When she said that her husband's detractors were threatening to have him jailed, the audience responded with shouts that they would not let that happen.

Ejercito recalled Enrile's vow during her last days in Malacañang that the senator would never leave Estrada.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) expressed concern over Ejercito's decision to run for a Senate seat.

"I pray deeply for her. The political campaign will surely not be kind to her. She will open herself up to the many issues and charges that her husband is still suffering from," said Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president.

Quevedo said that as a senatorial candidate, Ejercito would no longer be "insulated" from the criticisms regarding Estrada's mistresses, mansions and bank accounts, and bribes.

'Martyr'

"If she wins, it will not prove the innocence of her husband. It will only indicate the sympathy

of the voting public as 'martyr,'" the CBCP president said.

Madrigal, scion of a prominent family who went to an exclusive Catholic school, said Enrile should be lauded for his defense of the Constitution, echoing the line used by the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the second envelope during the impeachment trial of Estrada.

The suppression of evidence against Estrada sparked the People Power II.

Madrigal told the audience that a policy of hatred had been launched against members of the LDP ticket. She said that nuns were influencing their students not to vote for opposition candidates.

Because she joined the LDP ticket, Madrigal said her rich friends had already turned their backs on her and that she was being pictured like a young Oreta in text messages.

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta earned the ire of the public after she danced on Jan. 16 after the voting to celebrate the victory of the 11 senators in suppressing the evidence against Estrada.

Love, not hate

"We would be running on a platform of healing, not hatred. Even if they hate us, we will give them love. But give us your votes," Madrigal appealed to the audience.

Puno peppered his speech with "puno (tree)" jokes for name recall.

A former press secretary, Puno also defended Estrada whom he said was voted into power by more than 10 million people.

He said that if they win, they would continue Estrada's programs for the poor.

Tamano, in his speech, lamented that the administration's People Power Coalition had no Muslim candidates.

Joining the LDP senatorial candidates was Pasay City Rep. Rolando Briones. He said the LDP had forged an agreement

with the Nationalist People's Coalition of which he is a member.

While the opposition senatorial candidates are wooing votes, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Metro Manila is asking voters to junk them as they are identified with Estrada.

Joi Doropan, secretariat of the Bayan-National Capital Region, identified them as Ejercito, former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, Puno, former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, and reelectionist Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gregorio Honasan and Enrile.

"These people who are running for senators in the coming elections are also the ones who tried to deny the truth about Erap's plunder of the economy," Doropan said.

Doropan said the Estrada-backed slate should change its name from "Pwersa ng Masa" (Force of the Masses) to "Pwersa sa Masa" (Not for the Masses).

Doropan said Bayan would soon release a complete "trash list" of candidates, from the senatorial to local candidates, who should be rejected in the May 14 elections for their loyalty to Estrada.

Three of them were identified as former Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, past chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority; Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn; and Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio.

Quevedo said the Catholic bishops would take an active role in the coming elections through the political education of the people and the safeguarding of the electoral process.

"The bishops, clergy and religious have the duty of advising Catholic voters to vote according to an informed, mature, and right conscience. The advice would generally follow the following lines: wisely, responsibly, intelligently, honestly," he said.

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Erap's fate hangs on 13 SC justices

(From page A1)

for (him) during the impeachment trial."

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, who was sworn into office yesterday, expressed confidence that Malacañang would win the case.

"As in the impeachment case, I have always said that I sincerely believe we have overwhelming evidence against ex-President Estrada," said Marcelo, who served as private prosecutor at the impeachment trial.

Marcelo echoed Perez's observations that Estrada's legal maneuvers were actually intended to prevent his prosecution and not to question Ms Macapagal's presidency.

Estrada had earlier filed a petition for a temporary restraining order to stop the Ombudsman from trying him for bribery, plunder and corruption.

He said he could not be sued under the law because he was still President and Ms Macapagal was only acting President.

He later filed a *quo warranto* action questioning the legality of Ms Macapagal's presidency and arguing that she assumed the post despite its not being vacant.

With Davide and Panganiban having inhibited themselves, Justice Josue Bellosillo is presiding over the proceedings.

He and the 12 other justices—Jose Melo, Jose Vitug, Vicente Mendoza, Leonardo Quisumbing, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez, Arturo Buena, Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes, Santiago Kapunan, Reynato Puno, Bernardo Pardo and Sabino de Leon—will deliberate and vote on the consolidated case.

7 days, 6 cases

The high court has given the government (represented by Perez and Ombudsman Aniano Desierto) and Estrada (represented by Saguisag and Agabin) five days to submit written arguments and two days to respond to each other's comments.

Desierto said that in those seven days, he would stop action on six criminal cases that had been lodged against Estrada, as a courtesy to the high court.

As numbers go, 13 surfaced often during Estrada's impeachment trial.

Clamor's Funa—one of the complainants in the plunder cases filed against Estrada before the Ombudsman—noted that the ledger presented by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson on the supposed "jueteng" payoffs that Estrada had received was composed of 13 pages.

Also, Funa said, the bank code representing Equitable-PCI Bank, where Estrada was said to have kept secret accounts, was 13.

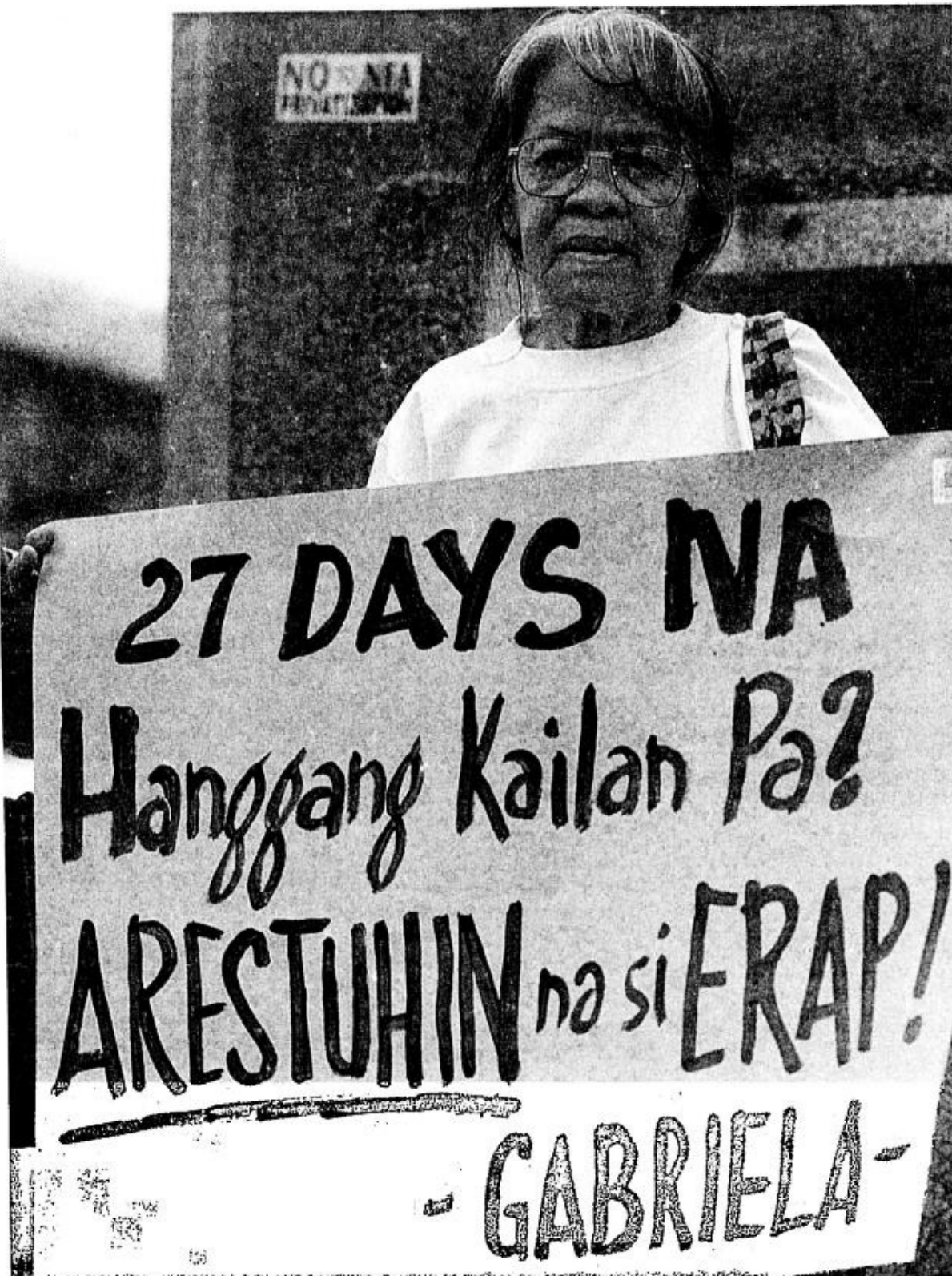
The number also played a significant role in the ups and downs of the Estrada administration.

Estrada was elected the Philippines' 13th President. His screen name, on which he anchored the popularity that catapulted him to power, consists of 13 letters.

The jueteng exposé that eventually led to his downfall was made by his friend of three decades, Chavit Singson, whose name adds up to 13 letters.

Last Nov. 13, then Speaker Manuel Villar made history by swiftly and deftly endorsing to the Senate the impeachment complaint against Estrada.

On Dec. 13, Singson took the wit-



COUNTDOWN for Gabriela during a rally in Mendiola.

ERIK ARAZAS

ness stand for the first time and accused Estrada of skimming P130 million out of the P200-million tobacco excise tax for Ilocos Sur.

A few days later, witness No. 13, Equitable-PCIB executive Clarissa Ocampo, gave what would turn out to be the most damaging testimony against Estrada.

She said she was one foot away when Estrada signed "Jose Velarde" on bank documents that would transfer P500 million from his savings account to a trust account he wanted set up.

Fantasy

Speaking over radio station dzRH, Saguisag said the chances of Estrada being reinstated to power by the Supreme Court were "like a fantasy."

Saguisag reiterated that even if the tribunal gave the presidency back to Estrada, he should relinquish it immediately because of the expected public uproar.

He said he had agreed to represent Estrada in the Supreme Court on condition that the ousted leader would step down immediately if he was reinstated by the tribunal.

"We're hoping we'll be sustained, but I'm not that naive to believe that we have more than a snowball's chance in hell of surviving," Saguisag said, reiterating yet again: "There's always the

risk of winning."

Saguisag said Estrada was after vindication, not immunity.

"It is important for legal, historical and political purposes to be sustained in our theory that (Ms Macapagal's installation as President) was unconstitutional," he said.

But Malacañang officials said that they had a strong case against Estrada, and that they did not consider an initial setback the inhibition of Davide and Panganiban and the seven-day reprieve granted the disgraced leader.

"We know that we are doing the right thing. We have the right position for this. And we are very confident that in the end, the position of the administration will be sustained," Executive Secretary Renato de Villa said in a chance interview.

Renato Corona, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, told reporters at a regular briefing that it was too early to speculate on the outcome of the case.

Solicitor General Marcelo said that in the end, what mattered most was how the justices will vote.

"It's all a question of perspective. If all the justices vote to dismiss the petition, then it will be of no consequence that (Davide and Panganiban) inhibited themselves," he said.

'Immaterial'

Gabriela, the alliance of militant women's organizations, assailed the Supreme Court for allowing Desierto to delay action on the Estrada cases.

"Whether Estrada resigned or not is immaterial and irrelevant. His ouster by people power proved his guilt beyond reasonable doubt," said Gabriela deputy secretary general Emmi de Jesus.

"The Supreme Court doesn't have the power to overrule the decision of the people or to nullify the victory of People Power II," she said.

Some 100 Gabriela members held a rally yesterday morning at the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang to demand Estrada's immediate arrest.

They urged the Macapagal administration to stop passing from one government branch to another the responsibility of arresting Estrada.

They said the delay in Estrada's arrest would give him room for political maneuvers.

"Right now, Estrada is free to command from his seat of power on Polk Street (in San Juan)," De Jesus said.

"He is beefing up his emaculated camp to regain power in the Senate and directing his henchmen to organize unruly mobs to feign mass support," she added. With reports from AP and Jerome Aning

(From page A1)

immediately file the perjury case with the Sandiganbayan after he agreed to put off his decision on the six complaints against Estrada upon the request of the Supreme Court on Thursday.

Other accounts

A month after the impeachment trial of Estrada was suspended, Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said anonymous sources continue to deluge him with evidence pointing to the former President's secret bank accounts.

"I take it as a sign of their frustration and disappointment, especially with the slow pace that the Office of the Ombudsman is taking in pursuing the cases we failed to complete," Moreno said in Filipino in an interview over dzMM.

Moreno noted that "the deluge of information comes not only from the banking sector. There are other groups that are not happy with the way things have been going after the trial."

Moreno was part of the 11-member House prosecution panel in the impeachment trial.

The records of the Velarde account were the contents of the second envelope, which was opened by Senate President Nene Pimentel Jr. on Wednesday.

Authenticated copies of the envelope's contents have been turned over to Desierto, who had requested for the documents in connection with the Ombudsman's investigation of the plunder and bribery charges against Estrada.

But even without the second envelope, Desierto could still indict Estrada for perjury based on the testimony of Clarissa Ocampo, Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president, and bank lawyer Manuel Curato.

Both Ocampo and Curato testified before the impeachment court that they witnessed Estrada affix the signature Jose Velarde when he opened an account with the bank on Feb. 4, 2000.

Desierto said the Office of the Ombudsman had the burden of ascertaining the real identity of Velarde since the Velarde accounts would be indispensable in the criminal proceedings at the Sandiganbayan.

A ranking Ombudsman official earlier claimed that Velarde was indeed Estrada's alias. He said it was easy to say so since the handwriting—particularly the signature—was the same.

True wealth

Private prosecutors and cause-oriented groups that filed the perjury case, among other cases, said Estrada could be held liable for perjury since he did not state in his 1999 Statement of Assets and Liabilities his true wealth.

Desierto said the Velarde account could also be used to bolster the complaint for forfeiture of Estrada's assets, estimated at P20 billion.

Raps filed vs Pineda . . .

(From page A1)

der President Macapagal's instructions and guidance," Lina said.

Malacañang is supportive of moves to prosecute Pineda, according to Renato Corona, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson.

In a news briefing, Corona denied that the First Family had other than social ties with the Pinedas of Lubao, Pampanga.

Corona said Ms Macapagal once stood as godmother at the wedding of one of Pineda's children.

"She does not have any ties with them other than that social acquaintance," he said.

Corona also said that the issue of Pineda had long been discussed, and that "the government position has always been consistent—if there is evidence, we should present it and file cases" against him.

"And if the cases are filed, let (Pineda) answer them," Corona said.

Campaign contributor
Pineda is said to be a campaign contributor of then Vice President Macapagal.

Asked whether there was a need for the President to come clean on the issue of Pineda if only to give credence to the government's renewed campaign against illegal gambling, Corona said she had made her position clear when she was still Vice President.

He said that at the time, Ms Macapagal issued a press statement saying that Pineda should be sued if the evidence warranted it.

Corona added: "Give him a chance to answer, after which the matter will already be in the hands of the court."

"Let those people who are accusing anybody of any crime—not just Bong Pineda and not just jueteng, for that matter—come up with evidence if they have any. They should come out with it, and the case can then be filed."

'No sacred cows'

Lina said that despite the supposed efforts of underworld characters to smear his reputation, there would be "no sacred cows" in the crusade of the Department

"The rule says that when the proof of salary and other lawful income cannot be justified by his actual assets, then the assets can be forfeited in favor of the government," he said.

Desierto earlier said that the Ombudsman would automatically file a complaint for forfeiture with the Sandiganbayan to seize Estrada's alleged ill-gotten wealth as long as it could be shown that he owned the Velarde account.

However, Desierto can only do so after the May elections because there is a ban on the filing of a forfeiture complaint with the anti-graft court within a year before the national elections.

The complaint for forfeiture, which was filed by private prosecutors and 82 "People Power II" groups last week, would be investigated separately from the six complaints earlier filed by lawyers' groups and nongovernment organizations.

Estrada and his co-respondents are facing charges of plunder, graft, malversation of public funds, bribery and perjury in connection with the "jueteng" controversy, tobacco tax kickbacks and acquisition of ill-gotten wealth.

Secrecy law

Moreno admitted that his sources might have committed "technical" violations of the Bank Secrecy Law by voluntarily disclosing to him information about Estrada's bank accounts.

"But of course we understand that they are doing this because they cannot stand anymore the slow pace of the process that took over from where we left off," he said.

Since the impeachment trial has been adjourned, it is now up to private lawyers who assisted the House prosecutors to pursue the cases against Estrada.

But the longer it takes for Desierto to obtain the bank records of Estrada and his mistresses, the greater the possibility that these could be tampered with, according to Moreno.

Desierto announced Thursday that his office had received statements relating to Estrada's bank accounts from five banks—International Exchange Bank, Metrobank, Security Bank and Trust Co., Asia United Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank.

At least three other banks have promised to turn over Estrada's and his mistresses' records with them as soon as possible.

Moreno warned that the bank executives who assisted Estrada in opening his secret accounts using numbers and fake names as identification could themselves face criminal charges as his accomplices.

"We have to give a certain degree of understanding to the bank officials. Probably they could not say 'no' when approached by Estrada. But by what they did, they are considered accomplices," he said.

of the Interior and Local Government against illegal gambling and drugs.

He said gambling lords and operators had been trying to implicate him and his brother, businessman Bert Lina, in jueteng operations in Laguna.

"This smear campaign is not new to me anymore because it is aimed at sabotaging our campaign," he said.

Lina, who was governor of Laguna before his appointment as interior secretary, said that at the start of his crusade to stamp out the illegal numbers game in the province, jueteng lords did not spare his 13-year-old son in peddling lies to the media.

He said earlier media reports had described his son as a jueteng collector.

"I vehemently deny all these allegations. I have not been and will never be involved in jueteng. The same holds true with my brother," Lina declared.

He added: "My track record as a public official is proof enough that I have long been a staunch fighter of illegal gambling and illegal drugs. This is the very reason I parted ways with former President Estrada after I learned that the highest official of the land had been implicated in jueteng."

Warning

Lina warned local officials that the DILG would file administrative charges against them should they fail to stop illegal gambling in their areas.

He also warned governors and mayors that their powers of supervision over local police forces as deputies of the National Police Commission would be withdrawn if they were proven remiss in the task.

Under Republic Act 6975, the law that created the Philippine National Police, governors and mayors are deputized as representatives of Napolcom in their respective areas.

Lina said he would meet with the local government leagues in the next few days to map out plans on how the renewed drive could be effectively carried out at the local level.

"Our guiding principle in this crusade is sincerity. We must show sincerity in our commitment to stamp out once and for all illegal gambling in our communities," he said.

Pacificador acquitted in massacre

(From page A1)

have to stand trial for the 1986 murder of Javier.

Six of Pacificador's bodyguards had earlier been convicted in the massacre, but Judge Duremdes said "the prosecution has not shown with proof beyond reasonable doubt that the accused, Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, is guilty."

Applause and cries of disbelief broke out inside the jam-packed courtroom yesterday shortly after the 102-page decision was read.

"Pasalamat gid ako (I am thankful)," were Pacificador's first words.

His supporters surrounded him as he walked out of the Calixto Zaldivar Hall of Justice to be brought back to the Antique Provincial Jail where he is detained.

Pacificador said he is pushing through with his plans to file his certificate of candidacy for governor before the Feb. 28 deadline.

But he said he would withdraw his candidacy if he cannot go out on bail in the Javier murder case.

Pacificador is facing a separate murder charge for killing Javier on Feb. 12, 1986 at the provincial capitol during the canvassing of votes for the "snap" presidential elections.

Javier was a supporter of then presidential candidate Corason Aquino, who ran against Marcos, Pacificador's candidate.

The case is still pending before the Antique RTC Judge Rudy Castrosjos. After the verdict was read, walls of grief filled the courtroom from the relatives of the victims.

'Miscarriage'

"There is a miscarriage of justice," said board member Calixto Zaldivar III, son of former Gov. Enrique Zaldivar, four of whose relatives died in the ambush on Pangpang Bridge in Sibolom.

He said he would consult his lawyers to determine if they could file an administrative case against Judge Duremdes. They would file before the Supreme Court either a motion for reconsideration or a motion for judicial review, he added.

"I found the decision so shocking that I wanted to cry," said Undersecretary Sally Zaldivar-Perez, the Senate legislative officer and a member of the Zaldivar clan.

"All of a sudden, I pictured the grim faces of my four relatives who were brutally killed in that incident," she said referring to cousins Rhium Sanchez and Mamerto Zaldivar, and nephews Plaridel Sanchez and Aldrich Sanchez.

"In this present case, justice may be blind but the people of Antique know what really happened," Perez said.

The group of Zaldivar and the security men of Pacificador accidentally met at the Pangpang Bridge at 10:30 p.m. on May 13, 1984.

The prosecution claimed that Pacificador's security men alighted from their vehicle and fired at the victims who were on board another vehicle, a Toyota Tamaraw.

Firefight

Killed in the ensuing firefight, aside from the Zaldivar and the Sanchez cousins, were their supporters—Clemente Samulde, Abner Varon and Armelito Tamboong.

Two of Pacificador's men died. They were Jonathan Gallo and Marcos Yee. The only survivor in the encounter was Luna Sanchez, a cousin of the Zaldivars who served as a prosecution witness.

Pacificador and former Gov. Enrique Zaldivar, an ally of Javier, were the feuding leaders of the then ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan in Antique at that time.

Six of Pacificador's security escorts were convicted of multiple murder and frustrated murder for the Pangpang massacre by another judge in 1996.

They are now serving time at the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa. They have appealed their case before the Supreme Court.

They are Sgt. Domingo Dalmacio, Sgt. Lurico Cabanero and constable Reynaldo Alipala of the then Philippine Constabulary and Hector Fullon, Lorenzo Mingote and Pfc. Vicente Vegafria of the Philippine Army.

Pacificador was not immediately charged in connection with the case because he went into hiding shortly after the Edsa Revolt that toppled Marcos in 1986.

He resurfaced in 1995 and surrendered to authorities. It was only then that separate charges were filed against him for the Pangpang massacre and the Javier killing.

No conspiracy

In his decision, Duremdes said there was no conspiracy on the part of Pacificador and his military security men to kill Javier's supporters.

He said paraffin tests had shown that six of the eight men inside the Toyota Tamaraw fired their guns.

Celis reelected Scoop president

COLUMNIST Beth Celis kept her post as president of the Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (Scoop) after yesterday's election at Kamayan West Avenue in Quezon City. Celis, serving her sixth term at the post, was voted by acclamation in the annual exercise.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

PBL CLIMAX

Shark, Welcoat title go on

Harp lifts Red Bull to victory

DAVONN Harp barreled a shot with 11.3 seconds left last night to lift Red Bull to a 73-72 victory over Alaska in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the PhilSports Arena.

Harp's basket preserved the heroics of Lowell Briones, who scored eight of his 10 points in the fourth quarter as the Thunder earned their third straight win after losing to Pop Cola two weeks back.

The setback pushed Alaska to the cellar at 1-3. Alaska's worst start of 0-3 happened in the 1999 All-Filipino Cup.

"We lost Mick (Pennisi) in the 1st quarter which gave us a problem in the big man rotation. Good thing Briones was there. He saved the day for us," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

Later, Pop Cola scored a 96-92 victory over Purefoods in the second game. Pop Cola tied its victim at 2-2.

SCORES

RED BULL 73—Harp 20, Agustin 16, Briones 10, Miller 9, Valenzuela 8, Mendoza 4, Pennisi 2, Reyes 2, Raymundo 2, Capacio 0, Tugade 0.

ALASKA 72—Duremdes 24, Peek 16, Santos 12, Allado 8, Arigo 6, Walkvist 2, Ordonio 2, Reyes 1, Ramas 1, Gahol 0, Evans 0.

Quarters: 15-15, 31-36, 50-59, 73-72

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS

Indiana 82, Detroit 73; Miami 98, Toronto 91, OT; Dallas 102, Cleveland 81; San Antonio 102, Washington 78; Boston 108, Seattle 88; Portland 105, Sacramento 81; Vancouver 99, Golden State 89.

SPORTS ON TV

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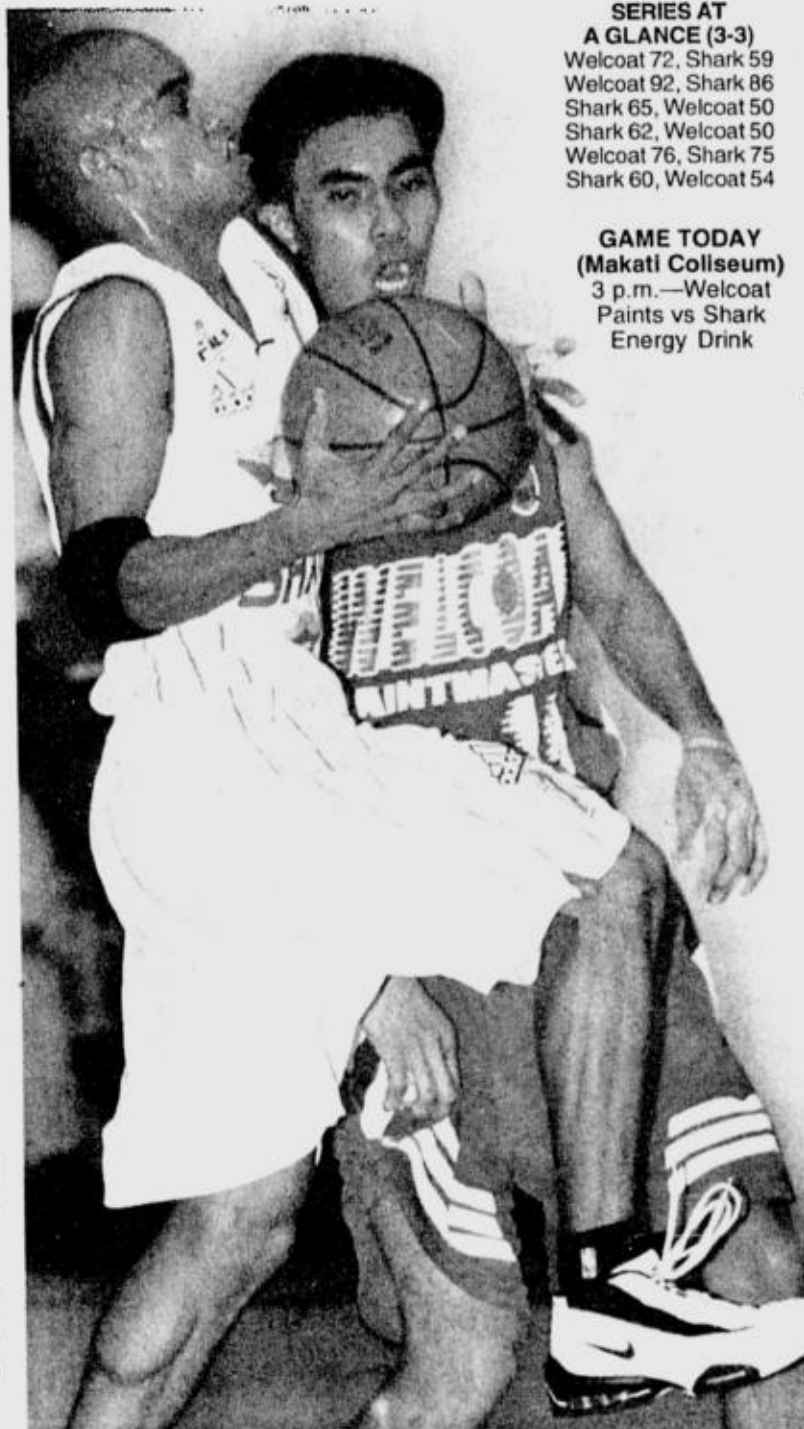
ESPY AWARDS: ESPY Awards at midnight on ESPN BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Wisconsin Badgers vs Illinois Fighting Illini at 8 a.m. (r), Cincinnati Bearcats vs Memphis Tigers at 10 a.m., Florida Gators vs LSU Tigers at 1 p.m. (delayed) on ESPN

NBA - Miami Heat vs Toronto Raptors at 9 a.m. (r-9 p.m.) on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA A&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Tour Highlights at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 12:30 p.m. (r-8 p.m.) on Star Sports



SHARK'S Robinson reduces Welcoat's Yancy De Ocampo to a mere spectator as he goes for a layup in this file photo.

ROMY HOMILADA

SERIES AT A GLANCE (3-3)

Welcoat 72, Shark 59
Welcoat 92, Shark 86
Shark 65, Welcoat 50
Shark 62, Welcoat 50
Welcoat 76, Shark 75
Shark 60, Welcoat 54

GAME TODAY (Makati Coliseum)

3 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Shark Energy Drink

BY DENNIS U. EROA

THERE WILL be no more tomorrow as Shark Energy Drink aims to complete the mother of all comebacks against mighty Welcoat Paints today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

By stretching the best-of-seven titular series to a winner-take-all game from a 0-2 and a 2-3 deficit, the Power Boosters pierced the Paintmasters' myth of invincibility to regain their self-respect.

The same Welcoat squad shamed Shark last year in the Chairman's Cup, 4-0. It was the first best-of-seven format in the league.

The Power Boosters topped the eliminations but kibitzers said the Paintmasters would score another romp in the finals.

This time, Shark destroyed, if not devoured, predictions.

"We have nothing to lose," said Shark coach Leo Austria. "We're almost there and there's no reason why we should not go for it with all our hearts."

Austria, a former PBA rookie of the year from scenic Sariaya, Quezon, has transformed the Power Boosters to a never-say-die team.

Given up for lost after losing Games 1 and 2, the Power Boosters came back in style.

But Welcoat is no sitting duck.

"We love to play pressure games," said coach Junel Baculi, who is trying to steer the Paintmasters to their fourth straight title and a slice of league history.

Baculi's demeanor just like his well-combed hair hasn't changed a bit. Always, he's like a volcano ready to explode.

Ren Ren Ritualo, Welcoat's top scorer from Game 1 to Game 6, needs help from the likes of foul-prone Eugene Tan, who with Jojo Manalo is tasked to put the cuffs on Shark hotshot Roger Yap.

"This game is all about how fast one can react to a certain situation. So far, I can say that we've been able to adjust very well to Welcoat's plays," Austria said.

Aside from its run-and-gun plays, Shark is effective when its wingmen (Yap, Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan) do isolation plays underneath.

Welcoat slotman Yancy de Ocampo has been consistently troubled by Ryzal Castro and Shark's double-teaming defense.

But the Paintmasters' woes start when Ritualo, Manalo, Tan and Anton Villoria cannot hit from the outside.

Michael Robinson has been living up to his reputation as Shark's take-charge guy. Warren Ybarñez has been giving Shark quality minutes at the point.

Baculi has enough aces left. Defensive demon Rene Suba, Francis Zamora, Ryan Pamintuan and Celino Cruz can make things happen for the Paintmasters.

Casas, Rosales fire 69s, 5 behind

CASSIUS Casas and Gerald Rosales fired three-under-par 69s yesterday to spearhead the Philippine challenge in the Carlsberg Malaysian Open at the Saujana Golf and Country Club.

They were at 141 after two rounds, five shots behind pacesetter Michael Campbell of New Zealand, who shot a 67 for 136.

Filipino ace Frankie Miñozo bounced back from an opening 77 with a 68 to stay in contention in the \$10,000 tournament at 145, one shot ahead of compatriot Rodrigo Cuello, who fired a 72.

Durant leads Bob Hope

LA QUINTA, California—Joe Durant went where he had never gone before to take the lead in the Bob Hope Classic. He might end up having to go where no one has gone before to have a chance of winning. On another day where birdies came in bunches in the desert, Durant shattered his personal best score with an 11-under 61 that gave him a three-shot lead after two rounds of the 90-hole Hope.

Garcia misses cut

MELBOURNE, Australia—Spaniard Sergio Garcia missed the halfway cut at the Australian Masters golf here Friday when his putting let him down in the second round.

Pagunsan guns for 2nd crown in John Hay Open

BY ROY LUARCA

BAGUIO CITY—The pressure is gone for Rey Pagunsan. He need not worry about a follow-up victory—just rake in more money—when he leads 60 pros competing in the Camp John Hay Open starting today in this chilly city.

After a breakthrough win in the inaugural MRT-Southwoods Open two weeks ago, Pagunsan now assumes the favorite's role in the tournament which will also feature a horde of amateur VIPs, including former president Fidel V. Ramos, five ambassadors and the city mayor.

Also given good chances of bagging the P100,000 top purse are Ruben Sasutit and Canadian Rick Gibson, who wound up two shots behind Pagunsan at Southwoods.

Marciano Pucay should be among the con-

tenders as he learned the rudiments of the game in the up-and-down layout, exploiting this familiarity to place second in the 1997 edition of the Philippine Open here.

A sentimental choice is Roger Antonio, senior division winner and ninth placer in the regular men's tour of the Southwoods Open, which served as the inaugural leg of the new Philippine Golf Tour.

Joining FVR in the 36-hole pro-am are ambassadors Werner Baumann (Switzerland), John Buckley (Australia), Alan Collins (United Kingdom), Jackie Foo (Singapore) and Graeme Waters (New Zealand) and US Embassy deputy chief Michael Malinowski.

Baguio Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Benguet Rep. Bernardo Vergara and BCDA chair Rogelio Singson are among those who will challenge Fil-Estate top honcho Bob Sobrepeña for the amateur plum. Sobrepeña

will be having a new partner as former teammate Cassius Casas is vying in the Malaysian Open.

The 120-player starting roster will answer the 8:30 a.m. shotgun tee-off, starting the chase for the P700,000 total purse put up by College Assurance Plan, CJH Development Co., the Fil-Estate Group of Companies and MRT.

Unlike at Southwoods, which gave power hitters the edge, John Hay puts premium on solid iron play and accurate putting due to its shortness.

"I believe it will go down to a putting contest with a little emphasis on the approach shots since the greens are tricky," said tournament director Buddy Resurreccion.

The John Hay Open kicks off a weeklong celebration in the summer capital, to be capped by the renowned Flower Festival.

Avon run draws 3,000

KRISTABEL Martes will face more than 3,000 challengers tomorrow during the Avon Running Global Women's Circuit 5K and 10K National Championship starting at Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

The 21-year-old Martes' main rivals though are 1998 champion Hazel Madamba and last year's runner-up Jona Gumbaba-Atienza in the event that gives P25,000 to winner in the 10K run.

"There are a lot of new faces here I haven't seen since I started running. But I'm not taking any chances," said Martes in Tagalog.

Aside from being billed the biggest all-women competitive run, the event will also set the record for the biggest prizes at stake for both distances.

Rich Karambola derby tonight

ONE HUNDRED TWO entries coming from as far north as Pangasinan to as deep south as Basilan display their finest breeds of fighting cocks tonight at Roligon Mega Cockpit as the biggest and richest 4-cock competition ever, the Super Karambola Derby, kicks-off at 3 p.m.

Propelled by the enormous success of its just concluded 11th Anniversary Derby, Super Karambola launches Roligon Mega Cockpit's millennium thrust of renewed commitment to upgrade the cocking industry.

Hosted by RMC's General Manager Lando Santos Luzong of Bgy. Barangka, Marikina City, the contest continues on Feb. 20 and 22 with the elimination round of the second and third batch of participants, respectively.

Highlight of the derby is the daily karambola or battle royale wherein 20 or more roosters will be released simultaneously inside the ring, for a free-for-all

fight to the finish until only one cock remains standing.

Tonight's tussle will feature Enrique Go, Louie Zerrudo, Jun de los Reyes, Dodong Dagoy, Bogs Avila, Jose Guines, Danny Cruz, Oca Suazo, Warito Bereber, Ado Alinsod, lawyer Bonifacio Gomez, Johnny Navarro, Bert Matty, Jelly Agacan, Jojo Punongbayan, Benny de la Cruz, Joe Mojeno, lawyer Romero Yu, Buddy Robregado, Eddie Mallares, Bengson Sy, Dennis del Rosario, Moling Dorado, Dr. Antonio Dictado, Larry Carino, Jun Manguerra, Barangay Capt. A. Santos of Angeles City, Pete Buendia, Edmund Yasay, Noli Manito, Yuac Estrella, Bobbit del Rosario, Richie and Sandy Tan, Marlon Ayuste, Kap. Rey Francisco, Pons Gadia, Abraham Bernaldes, Mandy Garcia, Julian Jenciran, BJ de Leon, Princess Naldo, Maj. Macky Senosa, Aning Amil, Pepe Manila, Pepeng Taba and Ernesto Palihan among others.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO
By Mr. 999

- Race 1—1. Scholar Girl 2. The Topnotcher 3. Heavenly Wings
Race 2—1. Justsay-when 2. Always 3. Lucky Swing 4. Solitaire
Race 3—1. No Regrets 2. Turbo Carera 3. Leverage Buyer 4. Go Johnny Go
Race 4—1. Time and Again 2. James Joy 3. Expediter
Race 5—1. Shining Jo 2. Jazz Queen 3. Cobra Door
Race 6—1. Baby My Beloved 2. Merry Melody 3. Black Ithay
Race 7—1. Sir Olizon 2. Padron Real 3. Don Benito 4. Sea Eagle
Race 8—1. Royal Worship 2. Nalc Warrior 3. Foreign Exchange
Race 9—1. Extra Strength 2. Noble Spirit 3. Wings of Gold 4. Touch of Luck

Villamayor tops Garma in India

FILIPINO GM Bong Villamayor asserted his supremacy over compatriot Chito Garma Thursday night to improve his position going to the last round of the Goodricke International Chess Open in Calcutta, India.

Though out of title contention with 6.5 points, Villamayor can land in the top five with another victory in the 11th and final round Friday night. In the same boat was Fide Master Ildefonso Datu, who bested Anton Simutowe and four others.

Russian GM Andrei Kharlov lived up to his top billing by trouncing Dimitri Reinderman of Netherlands and wrestling the solo lead with 7.5 points in the Swiss system tournament that drew 64 players from 15 countries.

Lodged at 7 points were Argentine GM Maxim Sorokin, Indian IM Chanda Sandipan, Swiss GM Joseph Gallagher, IM Bshan Ghaem Maghami, Kazakh GM Evgeny Vladimirov and Bangladeshi IM Ziaur Rahman.

Sorokin and Sandipan played to a draw and so did Gallagher and Maghami. Vladimirov whipped Indian IM RB Ramesh while Rahman upset Indian GM Dibyendu Barua.

Roy Luarca

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Philta junior netfest begins

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association unwraps the February edition of its Junior Classic today with the staging of 38 matches at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Court.

Hostilities start at 9 a.m. with matches in the boys' 14 years and under and the unisex 10 years and under.

Also seeing action today are the campaigners in the boys' and girls' 18 years and under and 16 and under as well as the girls' 12 years and under.

The event, the first of the monthly juniors tournament sponsored by Philta with support from the Philippine Sports Commission, is a two-weekend event which ends on Feb. 25.

Tournament referee Boy Leonora said that all participants are enjoined to find out their scheduled matches so that defaults will be minimized.

Hingis survives Vento

DOHA, Qatar —Martina Hingis survived a tough opening set Thursday to beat Mario Vento of Venezuela in straight sets 7-6 (4), 6-1 in the second round of the \$170,000 Qatar Open 2001. The world's top-ranked player, who had a first-round bye and arrived Tuesday night for her first-ever match in the Middle East, beat the wild-card entry in 81 minutes.

Jackie retires

INDIANAPOLIS — Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the greatest female athlete of the century and winner of a record six Olympic medals, has officially retired from track and field. USA Track & Field said Thursday it had received final paperwork from the 38-year-old Joyner-Kersey declaring her retirement.

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■ Man jailed for burning ex-wife's house

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Housemaid terrorizes Tondo family

BY JEROME ANING

HOUSEMAID Elsie Romanos terrorized a family in Tondo, Manila and threatened to blow up their house after her employer's daughter reportedly scolded her at about noon yesterday.

Western Police District Station 2 investigators claimed Romanos, 29, was high on illegal drugs when she tried to take hostage Gloria Bernardo's children and their two friends in their house on Madrid Street Extension, Barangay 45, Tondo.

Romanos, a native of Surigao del Norte, was armed with a foot-long knife when she tried to kick down the door where Maureen Bernardo, 18, her brother Jeffrey, 20, their 12-year-old sister and her playmates, aged 11 and 17, were holed up, police said.

The maid has been with the Bernandos for only two days, SPO4 Crispin Sarmiento said.

Gloria Bernardo, 45, said Romanos became depressed when her husband Charlie was arrested for

drug possession. The maid had blamed her neighbors in Surigao for squealing to the police.

SPO4 Sarmiento later learned that the maid herself was reportedly hooked on drugs.

Maureen Bernardo told police she scolded Romanos for burning her school uniform while ironing it.

Romanos reportedly got mad, went to the kitchen and returned with a knife—all the while muttering about the illegal arrest and detention of her husband in Surigao last month, police said.

When the children saw the maid about to run amuck, they ran to Maureen's room and locked the door, police said.

Unable to get in, Romanos threatened to burn the house down by blowing up the liquefied petroleum gas tank in the kitchen.

Gloria and barangay chair Josephine Sabangan, tried to pacify the maid. But Romanos refused to listen and went on kicking the door to the children's room.

PO2 Ronnie Sanchez and PO2 Erik Tristan of Western Police District Station 2 later arrived and subdued the maid.



ERAP BEHIND BARS

A symbolic cage containing a portrait of former President Estrada is carried around during a Sanlakas rally outside the Department of Justice building in Manila. The ralliers want President Macapagal to release political prisoners and arrest Estrada.

ERIK ARAZAS

Former Caloocan vice mayor dies after receiving award

FORMER Caloocan City Vice Mayor Celestino Rosca died of massive heart failure early yesterday morning at the Manila Central University Hospital.

Rosca died just a few hours after he was honored as among the most outstanding chiefs of the Caloocan police as part of the celebration of the city's foundation day.

Rosca served as vice mayor from 1988 to 1992

under the administration of former Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr.

In 1992, Rosca lost his reelection bid against now Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo.

Rosca is the father of administration Councilor Eduardo "Popoy" Rosca.

The former vice mayor's remains are at the Funeraria Nacional, Chapel 3, on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

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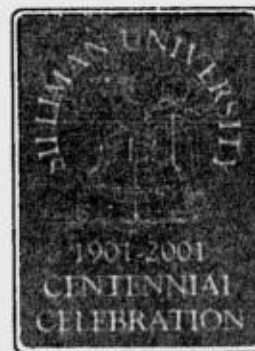
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Taxi driver stabbed dead over missing sunglasses

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A PAIR of branded sunglasses cost a taxi driver his life when he broke into the Quezon City house of his friend on Thursday night to look for the shades.

Driver Danilo A. Sagadal, 34, of Champaca West, Maligaya Park Subdivision in Barangay Pasong Putik, Novaliches in Quezon City, was stabbed dead when he broke into the house of Rico Orquin, 35, of Santan Street, also in Maligaya Park, to look for his sunglasses, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda.

Although it was already near midnight, Sagadal was determined to find his Police sunglasses worth P2,000. Police said the pair of shades has been missing for a year and Sagadal believed his friend Orquin had it.

Orquin and his family were already about to go to bed when Sagadal arrived outside his house about 11 p.m., police said.

Witnesses said a drunken Sagadal started shouting for Orquin to come out of his house and return to him his sunglasses.

Orquin opened the door of his house

and told Sagadal he did not have his shades and advised him to go home.

Instead of leaving, Sagadal took out a fan knife and stabbed his friend in the hand.

Police said Orquin took a 14-inch kitchen knife from his kitchen and stabbed Sagadal in the stomach and in the brow.

Sagadal died during surgery at the Far Eastern University hospital in Fairview about 7 a.m. yesterday.

Members of the Maligaya Park police detachment later arrested Orquin who is now detained at the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit holding cell in Camp Karingal, Quezon City.

Boy loses friend's car to two women in QC

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A VALENTINE date turned into a harrowing nightmare for a 17-year-old student who lost the car of his girlfriend's father to two female car thieves.

The boy, a resident of Varsity Hills Subdivision, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, was watching a concert Thursday night with his girlfriend at the Celebrity Sports Plaza on Capitol Drive in Diliman, Quezon City, when the two women stole the car, SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda said.

The boy said he and his girlfriend had their date a day after Valentine's Day to avoid the crowds. He felt

even luckier when he got to drive his future father-in-law's black 1997 Honda Civic V-Tec (UUY-536), Barrameda said.

The boy told investigators of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit office in Camp Karingal that he left the car at the Celebrity Plaza parking lot at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday.

He insisted he locked the doors before he left the parking lot, he told police.

But when he and his girlfriend returned after the concert at about 10:45 p.m., the car was already gone.

The boy approached the parking lot security guard Ariel Montano to

ask what happened to the missing car.

The guard told him he did not think anything was wrong when two women got off of a Starex van, approached the Civic, opened the car and simply drove away with it.

The Starex van, driven by a man, followed the Honda Civic out of the parking lot, Montano said.

"The suspects must have used a false key to open the Civic," Barrameda said.

He said police are still investigating why the student was allowed to drive the car when he is a minor. They are also looking into guard Montano's culpability in the theft.

Worker dies after tooth-pulling; pa blames 'anesthesia overdose'

BY JEROME ANING

A DELIVERY man died in his sleep yesterday morning, hours after undergoing what his friends described as a nerve-racking tooth extraction in a private clinic in Ermita, Manila.

But an autopsy on the body of Rodrigo Boquirin, 22, single, showed he died of "acute hemorrhagic necrotizing pancreatitis," or *bungangot*, according to SPO2 David Tuazon.

Boquirin's co-workers, Amante de Juan and Diomedes Basbas, told police they heard the sleeping Boquirin moaning and thrashing in his room around 5:30 a.m.

The three were stay-in workers at

Cherry Supermarket on Padre Faura Street in Ermita.

When they failed to wake up Boquirin, Basbas and De Juan took him to the Philippine General Hospital where he was declared dead.

But Boquirin's father, Leonardo, 47, a resident of Sta. Monica, was not convinced his son died of *bungangot*.

He went to the Western Police District homicide section yesterday morning to ask that the dental clinic, located on J. Bocobo Street, be investigated.

He claimed his son could have succumbed to anesthesia overdose or an allergic reaction to the dentist's medicine. Police withheld the name of the clinic

pending results of the investigation.

Leonardo last saw his son when he visited the store about 7 p.m. Thursday.

"When I asked where the bloodstains on his sleeve came from, he said he had his two front teeth pulled out earlier that day," the father told police.

After the young Boquirin's visit to the dentist, he told his two co-workers how "harrowing and painful" the extraction was and he hoped never to go through it again.

His co-workers said they did not see anything wrong with Boquirin, who appeared cheerful and even cracked a joke about having a toothless smile.

Man jailed for burning wife's house

A MALABON regional trial court yesterday sentenced to 10 years in prison a man it found guilty of trying to kill his estranged wife by burning her Navotas house in 1998.

In a seven-page decision, Judge Benjamin Antonio found Maximo Alvarez of West Kamias in Quezon City guilty of burning down his estranged wife Esperanza's house in Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas two years ago.

Court records showed that Alvarez

wanted to get back at his wife, whom he suspected of leaving him for another man.

Beleaguered by long-running marital problems, Alvarez admitted he intended to kill Esperanza by burning down his in-laws' house where his wife was staying.

Alvarez was convicted on the strength of the testimony of taxi driver Virgilio Palad, whom he hired to take him to his wife's house.

Palad testified that at about 3 a.m. on May 29, 1998, Alvarez flagged down his taxi on Kamias Road, Quezon City and asked him to take him to different places to get materials that he eventually used to burn down the house.

Carrying a container of gas and a lighter, Alvarez jumped over the fence of the wife's house, Palad said. The house soon burst into flames and Alvarez ran toward Palad's taxi.

Christian V. Esguerra

Quezon City laborer slain for punching neighbor

CONSTRUCTION worker Renato A. Canete was stabbed dead in a Quezon City slum for punching his neighbor's wife on the chest.

Driver Celso R. de la Cruz, 50, and wife Liza, both of Tent City on IBP Road, Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, are now on the run after Celso allegedly killed Canete Thursday night,

SPO4 Mar Castillo said.

Canete, 23, the couple, and other neighbors were having a drink outside Canete's house when Liza, "who was apparently drunk, grabbed Canete by the collar," Castillo said.

Police said they have no idea why the woman did it.

Canete tried to break free from Liza's

clutches, but she tightened her grip on him, prompting Canete to punch the woman on the chest, witnesses said.

Liza, "who was apparently drunk, grabbed hold of Canete by the collar," Castillo said.

Celso reportedly drew a fan knife and stabbed Canete in the abdomen. The couple fled.

Philip C. Tubeza

Carpenter killed

A SECURITY guard shot dead on Thursday a carpenter who tried to grab his service firearm in Muntinlupa City.

Carpenter Joselito Villato of Barangay Putatan in Muntinlupa City died at the Muntinlupa Medical Center from a gunshot wound in the left side of the body after security guard Ruben Asis, 56, shot him with his .38 revolver.

Asis, of Ilaya Street in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, is a security guard of the Enterex Security Agency assigned to the Delcwood Furniture factory at the Tiporel Compound in Barangay Putatan.

PO3 Benjamin Madriaga said the two men had an old rift due to a still unknown reason. Thursday night, an angry Villato suddenly approached Asis and grabbed his gun, police said.

They grappled for the gun briefly but Asis prevailed. Threatened by the angry Villato, Asis shot the carpenter, police said.

Alcuin Papa

Center opens

BUKAL ng Tipan (Wellspring of Covenants), a center for renewal and mission, opens at 6 p.m. today amid orchestra and trumpet music. The center is popularly known as Maryhill Retreat Center in Taytay, Rizal, and is located on a hilltop overlooking Metro Manila.

The opening will be graced by the Angono national symphonic band under the baton of Nonoy Diestro and the famous Belgian trumpeter, Theo Maertens.

For information on the courses offered by Bukal ng Tipan Center for the year 2001, contact Fr. Mark Lesage, CICM, at 658-5064, fax no. 660-6737, and e-mail maryhill@netgazer.com.ph, or Aleli at 825-3892.

Valentine ball

THE GREEN and White Valentine victory ball will be held at the Manila Polo Club tonight starting at 7. Organized by several high school alumni classes in the Sixties, the ball is meant to honor the three UAAP De La Salle University championships from 1998 to 2000.

Marines up in arms against Navy chief

IF Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong, Philippine Navy flag-officer-in-command, is not kicked upstairs—in plain language, yanked out of his post—he might have a rebellion in his hands.

Worse, Wong might get a bullet in the head, according to my sources in the Navy.

Wong's acid tongue might do him in, the source said.

Wong, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1969, is a lousy leader, if reports reaching this writer are to be believed.

He allegedly badmouths subordinate officers in front of enlisted personnel, a no-no in the military organization. An unwritten rule in the military says an officer should not be scolded in front of his men. Military tradition dictates that an erring officer is to be berated by his superiors away from his subordinates.

In short, the rule says an officer is to be commended in public and punished in private. It's a tradition that dates back to ancient times. The rationale behind it is that an officer should have the complete and unconditional respect of his men. Soldiers who don't respect their officers will not follow their orders in combat.

Last Thursday, Wong committed the gravest mistake of his career when he badmouthed all the officers of the Philippine Marines in front of the rank and file.

"Kaya marami sa inyo ang namamata sa laban dahil ang mga commanders n'yoy kawalan (The reason many of you are killed in combat is because your commanders are thieves)," the Navy chief reported told Marine enlisted personnel.

The Marines, the "fightingest" soldiers in the Armed Forces, are under the Navy.

This writer could not immediately

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



ascertain why the Navy chief uttered those insulting remarks.

Wong made the remarks during a pep talk before Marine enlisted personnel at the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Bonifacio. He reportedly made the statement in the presence of Marine officers.

When Wong met with the Marine officers in the conference room of the Marine headquarters, it was the turn of the subordinate officers to scold their chief. That's another no-no in the military.

"Suppose, Sir, you get shot when you get out of this building?" a young officer told the Navy admiral.

My sources said the Marine officers nearly ganged up on Wong. But they were able to hold their tempers.

"May isang opisyal nga, muntik nang barilin si FOIC (An officer nearly shot the flag-officer-in-command)," said my sources.

It was the first time it happened in the short history of the Philippine Marine Corps which was organized in the 1950s to fight the communist Huks.

If President Macapagal, the Armed Forces commander in chief, doesn't kick Wong upstairs she might have a rebellion in her hands from the military's supposedly most disciplined unit.

"We can't take the insults hurled at the officers corps of the Marines sitting down," said a Marine colonel. "We don't want to lose the respect of

our men."

Maj. Gen. Librado Ladia, Marine commandant, allegedly told Wong to his face that he was a lousy leader.

Wong is very much senior to Ladia, who is a member PMA Class 1972.

My sources in the military say the next AFP chief of staff is Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa, commandant of the General Staff College in Fort Bonifacio.

Espinosa (PMA Class 1967) will be given the post, say my sources, because of his role in convincing military officers to withdraw their support for deposed President Erap.

Espinosa's imminent appointment will become very controversial, according to my sources, because the current chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, is recommending another general to replace him.

The charges that Zamboanga City businessman Lepeng Wee imported 39 drums of toxic chemicals are recycled accusations by his political opponents.

Wee is running for Zamboanga City mayor and his No. 1 opponent is Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat. The businessman had already been investigated by a congressional committee on the same charge and had been found innocent.

Actually, the chemicals were imported by a Malaysian company which was to have set up a furniture factory inside the Zamboanga Free Trade Zone. The chemicals were to have been used in furniture manufacturing.

When he was presidential adviser on Mindanao economic affairs during the time of President Erap, Wee invited foreign companies to invest in Mindanao.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, February 17, 2001
6th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:
Gospel:

Heb 11:1-7
Mk 9:2-13

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain. There his appearance was changed before their eyes. Even his clothes shone, becoming as white as no bleach of this world could make them. Elijah and Moses appeared to them; the two were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter spoke and said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say; they were overcome with awe. But a cloud formed, covering them in a shadow, and from the cloud came this word, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him." And suddenly, as they looked around, they no longer saw anyone except Jesus with them.

As they came down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man be risen from the dead. So they kept this to themselves, although they discussed with one another what "to rise from the dead" could mean.

The question about Elijah
Finally they asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the Law say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered them, "Of course, Elijah will come first so that everything may be as it should be... But, why do the Scriptures say that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be despised? I tell you that Elijah has already come and they have treated him as they pleased, as the Scriptures say of him."

Commentary:

Pearls and diamonds have lessons to teach us about transfiguration. A pearl, they say, is a product of a lot of pain caused by a grain of sand lodged in the flesh of an oyster. To cope with the pain, the poor shellfish emits a substance that coats the foreign body through the years until it grows into a gem. When the oyster dies, a pearl is born. Diamonds, on the other hand, are mined from the bowels of the earth; from rocks that get crushed, pulverized, liquefied by a lot of pressure and heat until their core turns into the hardest known crystal that glitters majestically. Transfiguration is really about divinity shining out of the tested humanity of Jesus. It is not an unfamiliar experience for us who are made to go through a lot of testing ourselves.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY)—Qualifying circumstances in rape—The seven attendant circumstances, first introduced in Section 11 of R. A. No. 7659, partake of the nature of "qualifying circumstances" which would increase the penalty by degree and make the crime punishable by the single indivisible penalty of death. It has long been the rule that qualifying circumstances must be properly pleaded in the indictment; if the same are not pleaded but proved, they shall be considered only as aggravating circumstance. Indeed it would be a denial of the right of the accused to be informed of the charges against him, and consequently, a denial of due process, if he is charged with simple rape and be convicted of its qualified form punishable by death, although the attendant circumstance qualifying the offense and resulting in the capital punishment was not alleged in the indictment on which he was arraigned. It was established that the accused-appellant is the brother-in-law of the private complainant. This circumstance was never mentioned in the Information, which charges merely simple rape. The trial court therefore erred in convicting the accused-appellant of qualified rape. The crime committed under the circumstances is simple rape attended by generic aggravating circumstance of relationship. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, G.R. No. 137269, October 13, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Malonzo: Asistio can't find mate

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

NOTING what he said was his political rival's inability to find a running mate in the May elections, Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday predicted his overwhelming victory over Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio.

Malonzo said Asistio's "bad track record" in governance has prevented him from finding someone to run as his vice mayor two months before the May 11 elections.

But Asistio, in a last-modification of his ticket, has picked former TV per-

sonality and Caloocan Rep. Roberto "Bobby" Guanzon to be his running mate.

In choosing Guanzon, Asistio has in effect junked opposition Councilor Henry Cammayo, who was earlier announced as Asistio's running mate.

But Malonzo is still insisting that nobody wants to join Asistio, who has been congressman since 1992, "because they know he's sure to lose against my champion team."

Malonzo, who is gunning for a third and last term against Asistio, said the sudden change in his bitter rival's lineup

of candidates only "shows his indecisiveness, his lack of leadership."

"He knows he has to have a strong vice mayor to carry his bid since he's facing my formidable lineup," Malonzo said.

"The record will speak for itself," Asistio said. "It will show who's been honest to the people or who has stolen the people's money and shattered their hopes."

He refuted Malonzo's criticism that he has a very weak lineup. He said he had to choose 12 candidates for the city council from among 26 aspirants in the city's first and second districts.

Intensify crime drive, Ping tells PNP

FORMER Philippine National Police chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday urged the PNP to intensify its crime fighting efforts instead of trying to find excuses for the recent kidnappings and bank robbery incidents in Metro Manila.

Lacson, who is running for senator under the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), was reacting to acting PNP Chief Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza's statement that "the increase in crimes was to be expected since we are in a transition period."

At least 11 cases of kidnapping and three bank robberies were recently reported.

Mendoza said criminals had taken advantage of the transition period after former President Estrada was replaced by Vice President Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo on Jan. 20.

"Instead of rationalizing and finding excuses for the upsurge in kidnappings and bank robberies, Gen. Mendoza should be prodding his intelligence operatives to work double time and effect the positive identification and immediate arrest of these criminals," Lacson

said.

He expressed optimism that the PNP could neutralize kidnapping and bank robbery syndicates soon "if the operating units are properly motivated and fully supported, resource-wise, by the PNP leadership."

He claimed that during his term as PNP chief and concurrent head of the elite Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), the crime rate went down dramatically especially after the neutralization of several big-time kidnapping and bank robbery syndicates.

Special kids in 2-day Camp Pag-ibig

A PROGRAM designed to enhance their integration into the community awaits some 2,000 special children in a camp-out at the Balara Filters today and tomorrow.

Camp Pag-ibig is a highlight of Quezon City's celebration of the National Retarded Children's Week Feb. 14-18.

Councilor Jorge L. Banal, president pro tempore of the city council, said Camp Pag-ibig 2001 is a joint project of the local government, the QC Capitol Jaycees and the Philippine Association for the Retarded (PAR) in cooperation with DECS, UNICEF, Pusong Makabayan Foundation, QC Federation of Market Vendors and the 601st Special Battalion (AFP Res. Com.).

Now on its 25th year, Camp Pag-ibig, a pet project of Mayor Ismael A. Mathay, treats the special children to parlor games, talent contests and over-

night socializing, said camp consultant Councilor Banal, who also serves as director of the Philippine Mental Health Association and PAR vice president.

"Natatanging Kabataan, Kabalik sa Kinabukasan" is the theme of National Retarded Children's Week.

The special children of Camp Pag-ibig 2001 will come from various public and private schools in Metro Manila, said PAR president Dr. Erlinda Lolarga.

A Mass will be said on the last day of the camp.

Mathay, who also serves as honorary camp director, said the project would provide the special children the chance to participate in socialization activities that will enhance their integration into mainstream society.

Banal, who is also incumbent president of the QC Jaycees Senate Foundation Inc., said the QC Capitol Jaycees



BANAL

led by its president, Councilor Winston Castelo, is co-sponsoring the camp in support of the Philippine Association for the Retarded, the lead agency coordinating the project.

'CAST AWAY' Hanks, Zemeckis deliver the goods

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

BOY loves girl, but strange things happen and he gets stranded in a far away island. He comes back after long, lonely years, only to find out that the girl—thinking he was long dead—already has a family of her own.

Take away the Hollywood gloss and the story line of "Cast Away" becomes familiar, for it is found in a number of Filipino melodramas. But, comparing "Cast Away" to Filipino ones is being disrespectful to the Robert Zemeckis movie.

Most of the time, many a Filipino movie with this plot has the leading man suffering from amnesia after the plot-defining accident, while the rest of the movie revolves around how he foolishly fights to win the girl back.

You won't find clichés in this Tom Hanks-Helen Hunt starrer. Instead, "Cast Away" is a fresh portrait of a man who is in total control of his life and a movie that has a firm grasp of reality.

REVIEW

From his work as a Fed-Ex systems specialist down to his love life, Chuck Nolan (Hanks) makes all the right moves, defying outside forces—like space and time—and preventing them from shaping his life. Until they all catch up with him.

A plane crash puts a stop to Nolan's clockwork existence, leaving him high and dry on an uninhabited Micronesian island for four long years. The movie's heart lies in his struggle to survive the harsh elements—both outside and within him—on what could be a paradise of an island.

As Nolan retraces the efforts of prehistoric man (like building fire, making tools out of sharp stone, and spearing fish), the movie never loses its love story element, which makes it a perfect Valentine date movie.

Nolan silently conveys his heart's longing by flashing light (salvaged from a dead pilot's body) on Hunt's picture which he keeps in a heirloom locket that

she has given him at the start of the movie.

Hank's transformation from an overweight city slicker to a trim, hermit-like man is as astounding as the movie's ability to keep the audience glued to the screen to watch only the actor and his bloodstained Wilson volleyball.

While on the island, Hank's character realizes that man's essential needs are not just food, shelter and clothing but also good old companionship, as shown in his imaginary friendship with Wilson.

He goes full circle alone in paradise, from attempting to take his life to finally getting the hang of it and eventually deciding to take his chances out there in the sea.

Before embarking on his make-or-break journey, he leaves a note etched on stone. "I escaped to sea, tell Kelly (Hunt) of Memphis I love her." The effect of that quiet gesture is like being tossed by a giant, unexpected wave.

The heartaches don't end there. Chuck's return to the modern world is marked by the painful news of Kelly's marriage.

Kelly thinks of leaving behind her family for him, right there and then... but enough of the parallelism with Filipino movies.

Nolan breaks our hearts once more when he makes the supreme self-sacrifice. "It seemed like I lost her all over again," he tells a friend.

Director Zemeckis, who also worked with Hanks in the Oscar-winning "Forrest Gump," could have ended the movie there, but he chose a brighter finale. With the camera lingering on Hanks, the movie ends with the hope that Nolan's life would go on and that whatever he has gone through wouldn't be put to waste.

In weaving in that finale without resorting to happy endings that Filipino movies so easily succumb to, the movie, and Tom Hanks, deliver the goods as expected.



PARADISE ISLAND: Hanks goes through an astounding transformation.

And the nominees are...

HERE IS the complete list of nominees in the 73rd Annual Academy Awards, to be handed out March 25 in Los Angeles.

Actor—Javier Bardem ("Before the Night Falls"), Russell Crowe ("Gladiator"), Tom Hanks ("Cast Away"), Ed Harris ("Pollock") and Geoffrey Rush ("Quills").

Supporting actor—Jeff Bridges ("The Contender"), Willem Dafoe ("Shadow of the Vampire"), Benicio Del Toro ("Traffic"), Albert Finney ("Erin Brockovich") and Joaquin Phoenix ("Gladiator").

Actress—Joan Allen ("The Contender"), Juliette Binoche ("Chocolat"), Ellen Burstyn ("Requiem for a Dream"), Laura Linney ("You Can Count on Me") and Julia Roberts ("Erin Brockovich").

Supporting actress—Maggie Gyllenhaal ("Chocolat"), Marcia Gay Harden ("Pollock"), Kate Hudson ("Almost Famous"), Frances McDormand ("Almost Famous") and Julie Walters ("Billy Elliot").

Director—Stephen Daldry ("Billy Elliot"), Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"), Steven Soderbergh ("Erin Brockovich"), Ridley Scott ("Gladiator") and Steven Soderbergh ("Traffic").

Best Picture—"Chocolat," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Erin Brockovich," "Gladiator" and "Traffic."

Art direction—"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "Gladiator," "Quills" and "Vatel."

Cinematography—"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Gladiator," "Malena," "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and "The Patriot."

Costume Design—"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "Gladiator," "102 Dalmatians" and "Quills."

Documentary feature—"Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport," "Legacy," "Long

Night's Journey Into Day," "Scottsboro: An American Tragedy" and "Sound and Fury."

Documentary short—"Big Mama," "Curtain Call," "Dolphins," "The Man on Lincoln's Nose" and "Tiptoe: Gentle Steps to Freedom."

Film editing—"Almost Famous," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Gladiator," "Traffic" and "Wonder Boys."

Foreign language film—"Amores Perros" (Mexico, directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu), "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (Taiwan, directed by Ang Lee), "Divided We Fall" (Czech Republic, directed by Jan Hřebejk), "Everybody Famous" (Belgium, directed by Dominique Deruddere) and "The Taste of Others" (France, directed by Agnès Jaoui).

Makeup—"The Cell," "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "Shadow of the Vampire."

Music (Score)—"Chocolat," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Gladiator," "Malena" and "The Patriot."

Music (Song)—"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" ("A Love Before Time," music by Jorge Calandrelli and Tan Dun; lyric by James Schamus), "Dancer in the Dark" ("I've Seen It All," music by Björk; lyrics by Lars von Trier and Sjon Sigurdsson), "The Emperor's New Groove" ("My Funny Friend and Me," music by Sting and David Hartley; lyrics by Sting), "Meet the Parents" ("A Fool in Love," music and lyrics by Randy Newman) and "Wonder Boys" ("Things Have Changed," music and lyrics by Bob Dylan).

Short (Animated)—"Father and Daughter," "The Periwig-Maker" and "Rejected."

Short (Live Action)—"By Courier," "One Day Crossing," "Quiero Ser (I Want to Be...)," "Seraglio" and "A Soccer Story (Una Historia de Fútbol)."

Sound—"Cast Away," "Gladiator," "The Patriot," "The Perfect Storm" and "U-571."

Sound editing—"Space Cowboys," "U-571."

Visual effects—"Gladiator," "Hollow Man," "The Perfect Storm."

Writing (Adapted)—"Chocolat" (Robert Nelson Jacobs), "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (Wang Hui Ling and James Schamus and Tsai Kuo Jung), "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" (Ethan Coen and Joel Coen), "Traffic" (Stephen Gaghan) and "Wonder Boys" (Steve Kloves).

Writing (Original)—"Almost Famous" (Cameron Crowe), "Billy Elliot" (Lee Hall), "Erin Brockovich" (Susannah Grant), "Gladiator" (screenplay by David Franzoni, John Logan and William Nicholson; story by David Franzoni) and "You Can Count on Me" (Kenneth Lonergan).

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- A mailer will be sent to an inactive member based on existing store data. Attached with the mailer is a waiver form that shall be presented to the Video City store where the customer is a member.
- Part of the mailer is a separate promo coupon. This coupon can be used to get one (1) FREE Head Cleaner by renting three (3) tapes.
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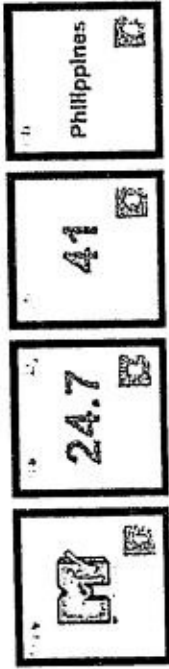
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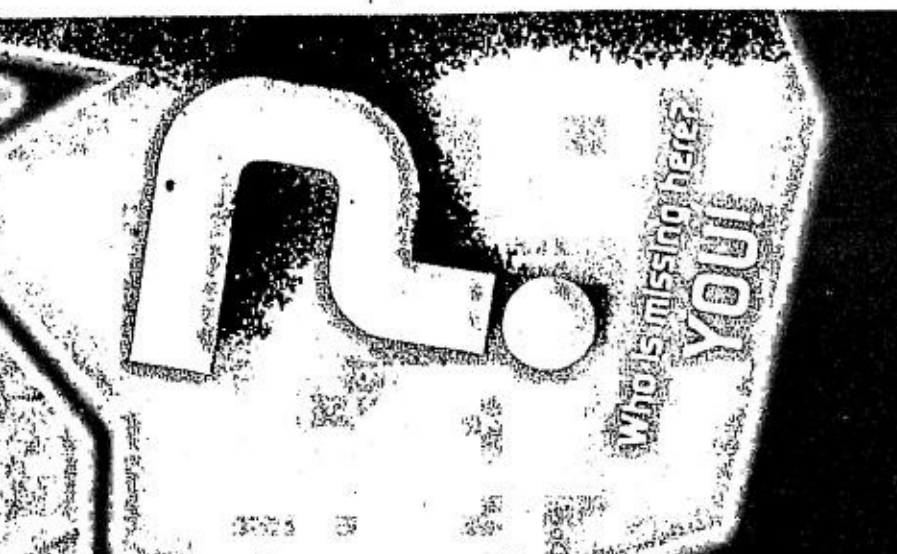
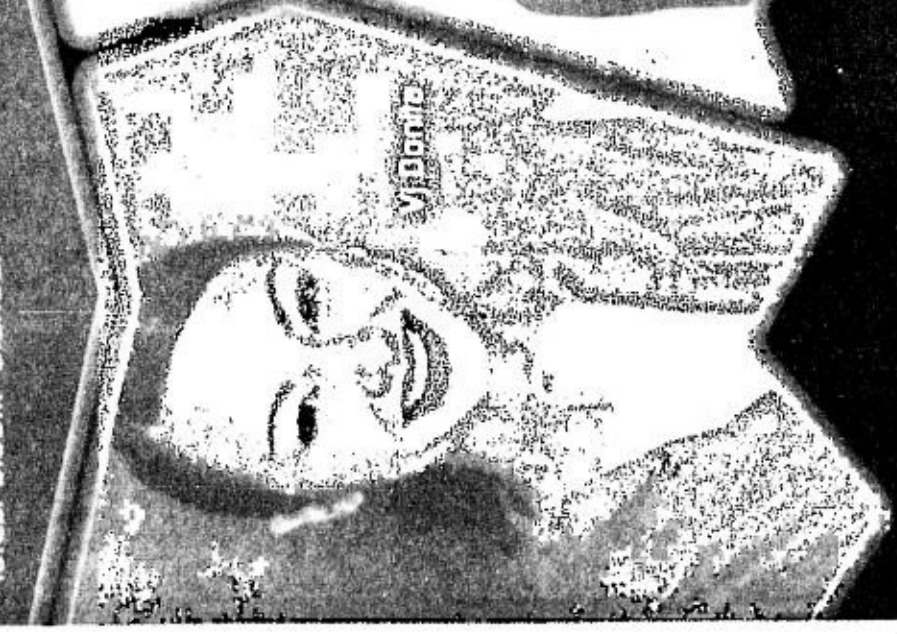
Collective Soul, Atlanta based-band who collaborated with Elton John on their latest album "Blender".



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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PROOF OF LIFE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	NURSE BETTY
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ROBEN	VIRGIN WIFE
TANDEM-1	IKAPITONG GLORIA
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ACT-2	ANAK NG KAWO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
QUEZON-1	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR-2	LAKAS AT PAG-IBIG

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
OCEAN CINEMA-A	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
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CINEMA-2	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
CINEMA-3	LAKAS AT PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VITAL PARTS
CINEMA-6	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-7	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-8	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-12	NURSE BETTY
CINEMA-14	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-15	BOUNCE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-3	LAKAS AT PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-1	BOUNCE
CINEMA-2	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-3	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-4	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-5	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-6	102 DALMATIANS

AS FORMER President Joseph Estrada stepped out of Malacañang, "Oras Na," the hit song by Coritha wafted through the airwaves, giving full depth and meaning to the images on TV screens and moving everyone to tears.

Little is known of the song that has inspired and influenced Filipinos for more than 20 years. Since its creation during the Martial Law years in 1978, and its recording and subsequent release to the public in 1979, "Oras Na" has continued to play an important role as the conscientizing song of the people. From Edsa I to Edsa II, the song has "fought the good fight" and has given courage and comfort to Filipinos everywhere during times of fear and uncertainty.

"Oras Na" indeed first sounded the call for change when Coritha performed it live with Regal Films musical director Blitz Padua on keyboards and Joel Oliveros on electric guitar, before an estimated audience of 50,000 in the first anti-Estrada rally.

Since then, the stirring music and lyrics of "Oras Na" reverberated from Ayala to Mendiola, from the Senate to Edsa and all over the country through the broadcast facilities of Radyo Bandido-dzRJ.

It was also the first song performed at the Edsa Shrine on Jan. 16, 2001, where Coritha and angry protesters gathered for the first of many nights and days. "Oras Na" was the only song that explicitly urged the people to march to Mendiola, eventually bringing down the un lamented Estrada.



CORITHA. The voice behind "Oras Na."

Barricade...

(From page A28)

"Smooth" (Santana), "Sex Bomb" (Tom Jones), "She Bangs" (Ricky Martin), "Love Is All That Matters" (Eric Carmen), "I'll Always Love You" (Eric Johnson), "The Hurt" (Kalamita), "Bye, Bye, Bye" (N'Sync), "I Want You Back" (N'Sync), "Tearin' Up My Heart" (N'Sync), "Pretty Fly" (Offspring), "Walkin' On the Sun" (Squash Mouth) and "Keep on Movin' (Five). The selections have been arranged for the band by Arthur Bulala.

"Concert at the Park" airs nationwide on PTV-4 every Tuesday, 6 to 7 p.m. Directing for TV is Villamor M. Paredes from a script by Gie O. Villamor. Executive in-charge of the concert project is Federico A. Edos.

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'GMA Telesine' is back on Sunday primetime slot

THE RENAISSANCE of a GMA invention, the "Telesine," returns to the Sunday primetime programming of the network.

GMA revives this TV gem worthy of a big screen screening. Big-name directors are set to wield their creative geniuses for the coming feature films on "GMA Telesine."

Earlier is "Bitoy's World," with comedian Michael V.

An innocent girl with pigtails wearing a naughty grin on her face pounds the head of

what seems to be her male twin in overalls. He hits back and an uproarious fight ensues.

Enter another clone in a basketball jersey who tries to stop them. He fails miserably and joins in the fracas.

You're seeing not only one, two, but three versions of ace comedian Michael V. in GMA's new hilarious comedy.

A spin-off of Bilibkaba's popular trio Betong, Etoy and Bebang, the new show chronicles their wacky adventures and misad-

ventures.

Viewers will surely enjoy watching the zany ensemble of characters who mingle with big name stars that drop by each episode. There's

pop icon Madonna, megastar Sha-ron Cuneta, action superstar Cesar Montano and maybe even Mys-tica. But wait, they are all portrayed by Michael

V., who displays his unprecedented versatility as a comedian.

"Bitoy's World" airs Sundays, 7 p.m., followed by "GMA Telesine at 7:30 p.m.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981410-41

1 102 DALMATIANS - G 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	2 CAST AWAY - P 13 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00	3 BOUNCE - P 13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
4 NURSE BETTY - P 13 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40	5 CAST AWAY - P 13 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30	6 FAMILY MAN - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

TIATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Disney Channel airs classics on movie block

REDISCOVER a whole treasure chest of Disney classics as Disney Channel opens "Vault Disney," a movie block showing timeless family flicks every Saturday at 11 p.m.

On Feb. 17, "The Shaggy Dog" comes barking to the Disney Channel. A madcap adventure that will have audiences howling with laughter, "The Shaggy Dog" follows the tale of Wilby Daniels, a whiz kid who, by some ancient magic spell, accidentally transforms into a dog.

Feb. 24, Disney Channel will air "The Return of the Shaggy Dog," the sequel to the hit film. This time, Wilby Daniels is about to get married when he is once again transformed into a dog by his professor's evil servants. Follow Wil-

by's new adventures as he goes from one doggone predicament to another.

Upcoming features in "Vault Disney" are classic films such as

"Treasure Island," "Swiss Family Robinson," "Oliver Twist," "Davy Crockett: King of the Wild Frontier" and many more.

Action Comedy in the tradition of PULP FICTION BRAD PITT ACTION BEGINS FEB. 21

MTRCB R Restricted No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

snatch

BENICIO DEL TORO DENNIS FARINA VINNIE JONES BRAD PITT RARE SHEENEDGIA JASON STATHAM



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SECOND WEEK!

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

"★★★★ Ryan and Crowe SIZZLE onscreen!"

"A SLICK THRILLER." David Ansen, NEWSWEEK
"A thriller that sweeps us into a world of undercover professionals!" Gene Shalit, TODAY SHOW



MEG RYAN | RUSSELL CROWE

A TAYLOR HACKFORD FILM

PROOF OF LIFE

CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BEL AIR ENTERTAINMENT AN ANTEL FILMS PRODUCTION A TAYLOR HACKFORD FILM
MEG RYAN RUSSELL CROWE "PROOF OF LIFE" DAVID WURSE PAMELA REED AND DAVID CARPIS "DANNY ELEANOR" BOB O'DONNELL
SCREENPLAY BY STEVEN REUTHER TONY GILROY "TAYLOR HACKFORD AND CHARLES MALVERELL" "TONY GILROY" "TAYLOR HACKFORD"

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

PAY IT FORWARD & TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO SEE THIS REMARKABLE FILM ON FEB. 21

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER KEVIN SPACEY ACADEMY AWARD WINNER HELEN HUNT ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE HALEY JOEL OSMENT

Some favors you're not allowed to pay back.



PAY IT FORWARD

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH BEL AIR ENTERTAINMENT A TAPESTRY FILMS PRODUCTION A NOLAN LEIDER FILM
KEVIN SPACEY HELEN HUNT HALEY JOEL OSMENT "PAY IT FORWARD" JAY MCGIR JAMES CAVIEZEL JOY BOY JOVI AND ANJIE DICKINSON
MUSIC BY THOMAS NEWMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARY McLAGLEY JOVATHAN TREISMAN BASED ON THE NOVEL BY CATHERINE RYAN HYDE
SCREENPLAY BY LESLIE DIXON PRODUCED BY STEVEN REUTHER PETER ABRAMS AND ROBERT L. LEVY DIRECTED BY NOLAN LEIDER

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For maximum enjoyment, see only on wide screen! 3rd MUST-SEE WEEK!

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

"AN ADRENALINE-PUMPING, HEART-STOPPING ADVENTURE!"

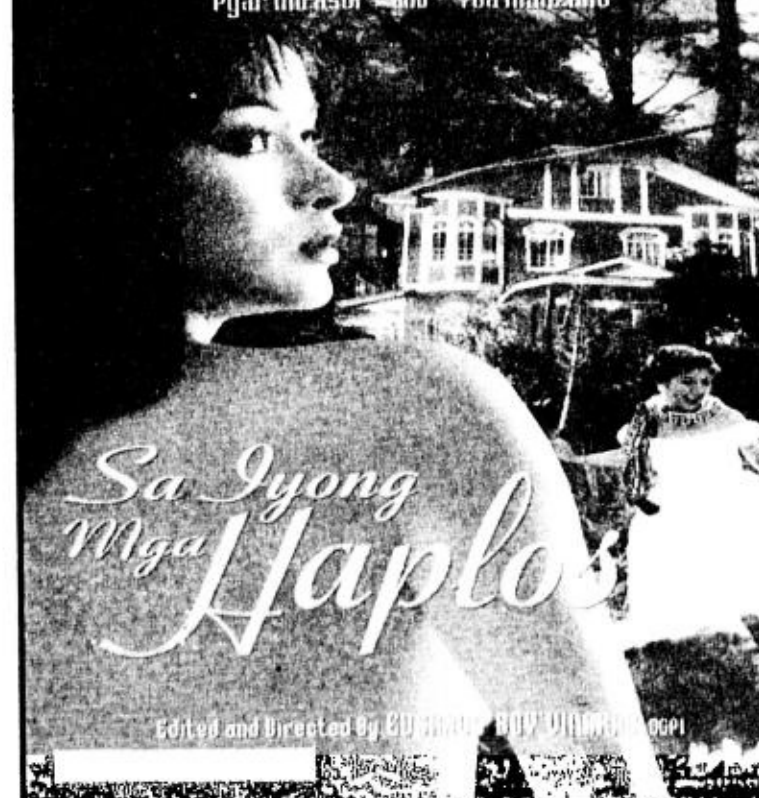


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NOW SHOWING

MTRCB R RESTRICTED No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted.

Pinky Amador Allan Paule Raffy Bando Ray Ventura
Pyaar Munro and Yola Manzano



Edited and Directed by GUY SERRA

EXTENDED

MTRCB R RESTRICTED No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted.

Grabeeee!!!

Mas Matindi pa sa Burlesk Queen Ngayon!



Produced by Romy Uyong
Screenplay by Iza Ignacio
Directed by Iza Ignacio

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Business, show biz help make children's dreams come true

THE SHOW pits fresh, young talents with polished and more developed artists.

In the opening suite, for example, a child composer plays a number which musical director Ryan

Cayabyab set to full orchestration. In one suite, young violinists begin the number and are later joined by a master, Coke Bolipata. Performing in another suite are the Bataoke Kids and established singers like Regine Velasquez.

Cayabyab said the original members of Smokey Mountain, the teenagers he trained and who now all have promising careers, would perform opposite Kaya, another performing group he recently launched.

These, and more, are in a show not to be missed this year, according to Cayabyab. The benefit show is for the Center of Excellence Public Elementary Education (Centex), a project of the Ayala Foundation with ABS-CBN. It will be held on Mar. 16 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Regine Velasquez, Pops Fernandez, Coke Bolipata, Lisa Macuja and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, among others, banded together to raise funds for this project which aims to develop underprivileged but bright students.

The Center of Excellence provides the children with an education at par with, if not better than, the best private schools.

"Centex is all about developing one's talents and our show is also about actualizing one's potentials," Cayabyab said.

Together with stage director Audie Gemora, theater writer Luna Inocian and Cayabyab's wife and producer Emmy, he came up with an idea for a show that is all about making dreams come true through hard work and training.

"We fused young performers with established ones," Cayabyab said. "We put together classical and OPM. We go from music to dance to com-



MESSAGE OF HOPE. Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel, wife and Centex spokesperson Kit Zobel, performer Pops Fernandez and musical director Ryan Cayabyab send a message of hope in a show that should not be missed.



DEVELOPING POTENTIALS. Kit Zobel, Emy Cayabyab, Carol Atacador, Pops, and Smokey Mountain's Tony Lambino attend launch of Centex fundraiser.

This early, the first batches of students in Tondo have consistently been winning top marks in examinations and competitions in Manila. "Our dream is to put up more Centex schools in as many locations," said Kit Zobel, Centex spokesperson and wife of Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel.

But it takes a lot of resources to

put up even just one school because a first-class education is expensive, she said.

The benefit show, which will be directed by Johnny Manahan and sponsored by Globe, hopes to raise funds for other Centex schools.

"We are pleased to have drawn the interest of so many artists who believe in the Centex dream," Zobel said.

OPENS FEBRUARY 21, WEDNESDAY!

MYRKO R-18 Strictly for Adults Only

FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING WRITER OF "THE USUAL SUSPECTS" COMES THE UNUSUAL ACTION FILM OF THE YEAR!!

ryan philippe benicio del toro juliette lewis and james caan

Way of the Gun

They live to kill ... and die at will!!

RELEASED THIRD SUNDAY FILMS

SHOWING TODAY AT SM CEBU

JOIN US IN THE 1ST MAJOR FILM EVENT OF THE YEAR!

PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2001

CINEMA IN THE ISLANDS!

Daring new films

Today at 6:30 pm

GAY & LESBIAN DOCUMENTARIES

PALUGID by Paolo Villaluna
WHOMAN by Gladys Hernandez
with SEX WARRIORS & THE SAMURAI by Nick Deocampo

11 am 1:30 pm 4 pm

SHORT FILMS
W/ RAYMOND RED'S ANINO
Cannes Palme D'Or Winner

EXPERIMENTAL SHORT FILMS

SHOWER

6 pm
GUMISING KA MARUJA

Barricade goes up at Rizal Park



BARRICADE Band in "Concert at the Park."

THE SOUND of pop continues this Sunday, Feb. 18, 5 p.m. in "Concert at the Park" as the Barricade Band takes centerstage. Hosting this weekly cultural project of the National Parks Development Committee, under executive director Antonio S. Mercado and the People's Television Network, is Susan Fernandez.

Barricade Band is composed of vocalist, lead guitarist and band leader Arthur Bulala, second lead guitarist and vocalist Richard Maluya, bassist Norman Bulala, keyboardist Edwin Lozano, second keyboardist Jerome Ilacad and drummer and vocalist Nicanor Vasquez. Formerly called the

Lover Boys, the Barricade Band has recorded an album under Sunshine Records International and has done successful stints in Japan, Malaysia and Singapore.

The group has a wide range of repertoire that varies from Billboard Top 40, pop, rock to retro music.

For their concert on Sunday, Barricade Band will perform the following selections: "Georgy Porgy" (Toto), "Season in the Sun" (WestLife), "My Love" (WestLife), "Beauty and Madness" (Fra Lippo Lippi), "Falls Apart" (Sugar Ray), "Every Morning" (Sugar Ray), "Someday" (Sugar Ray).

SOUND/A26

THIS WEEK

at SM Supermalls

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PHILIPPINE PROMO TOUR

FEB. 15-22, 2001

Catch the music scene's latest heart-throb in an afternoon of explosive performance and heart-throbbing music.

Feb. 18 • 4pm
SM MEGAMALL

Feb. 20 • 4pm
SM NORTH EDSA

Available in CDs & Cassettes

SM MEGAMALL THE SM CITY

FIVE WOMEN

AT MUSIC MUSEUM

Actor's Actors Inc.'s hit comedy, "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," goes to the Music Museum for a day due to popular clamor. Starring Dindi Gallardo, Lara Fabregas, Cris Villonco, Miren Alvarez and Kate Fernandez, who alternates with Rachel Alejandro, the comedy is slated for two performances, 3 and 8 p.m. today, Feb. 17. Directed by Bart Guingona, "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" also stars Lee Robin Salazar, who plays the love male in a bed of roses. Call 536-5844.



MISS Saigon

VALENTINE SPECIAL

Parterre Box and Orchestra (side and center) Seats at SPECIAL PRICES for February 12 to 25 performances

Balcony 1 & 2 seats are also available

For inquiries, call 817 1350, 813 6024, 813 6022, 0918-9002168, 0917-4239065, 0917-8113284, 0917-6136909, 0917-8928184

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THE CELL

BRING IT ON

BRING IT ON NOW ON VHS THIS JANUARY 30! THE CELL ON FEBRUARY 16!

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ASIA TEC

INTERACTIVE

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Equitable buyer known next week

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE GO family's Equitable Banking group has given interested investors until Monday to submit their bid for majority control of the bank.

Well-placed sources said the original deadline for the bidders was supposed to be yesterday (Friday) but the shareholders decided to extend the bidding until Monday.

The sources said the Equitable group, along with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, extended the bidding deadline until Monday in time for the Equitable PCI board meeting scheduled on Tuesday.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., the banking arm of the Yuchengco group, is widely believed to be on top of other local banks in the race for Equitable PCI, having tied up with foreign banks

Sanwa Bank of Japan and Banco Santander of Spain for financial muscle. Other reported bidders were Bank of the Philippine Islands and the Metrobank group.

"The market welcomes the fresh principal shareholder in Equitable PCI so that the company can move forward and leave the past behind," PCCI Securities Brokers Corp. analyst Gonzalo Bongolan said.

Equitable Bank shares were again among the most actively traded at the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, closing higher by P1.50 to P60. Its warrants were likewise among the biggest gainers, rising by 11.25 percent at P4.45.

"Also, the market has been waiting for the Yuchengcos to make a move. They are the only remaining taipan that has not embarked on a major acquisition but

maybe this is it," he said.

Equitable PCI, the country's third biggest lender, has a book value of close to \$1 billion.

Now the eighth biggest bank in the country with total resources of P131.3 billion, RCBC will rise to No. 2 if it succeeds in taking over majority control of Equitable PCI Bank. A merger between RCBC and Equitable PCI would result in an entity with assets of P423.8 billion.

This developed as sources said the shareholders of Equitable PCI have to yield to the BSP's desire that it be sold to a new group to give the beleaguered bank a fresh start.

Indebted to the BSP to the tune of P30 billion in cash advances, the sources said the central monetary institution had a big say on the choice of a white knight for

Equitable PCI.

On the other hand, some analysts said the sale of Equitable PCI to RCBC instead of bigger banks like Bank of the Philippine Islands and the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. would be good for the industry because it would result in healthier competition in terms of size. A merger with either BPI or Metrobank, on the other hand, will result in a local superbank towering above the rest.

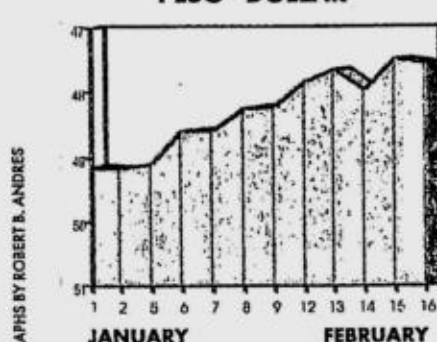
Equitable PCI was a victim of bank runs triggered by its former chair George Go's alleged involvement in the money laundering of then President Estrada. Go also resigned as chair of Equitable PCI late last year to spare the bank from unfavorable public sentiment arising from his much-publicized

EQUITABLE/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 47.55 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 16, 2001

Y 115.56 = \$1

The US dollar was trading at 115.56 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 16, 2001

Gold: \$255.90/256.40

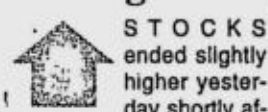
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 16, 2001

Feb. 16, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.104850	1.000000	47.8890
Japan	Yen	0.009576	0.008667	0.4151
United Kingdom	Pound	1.601701	1.449700	69.4247
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141651	0.128208	6.1398
Switzerland	Franc	0.653062	0.591086	28.3065
Canada	Dollar	0.723022	0.654407	31.3389
Singapore	Dollar	0.634060	0.573888	27.4829
Australia	Dollar	0.578819	0.523889	25.0885
Bahrain	Dinar	2.930793	2.652661	127.0333
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.294619	0.266660	12.7701
Brunei	Dollar	0.631704	0.571755	27.3808
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000105	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026082	0.023607	1.1305
UAE	Dirham	0.300844	0.272294	13.0399
Korea	Won	0.000884	0.000800	0.0383
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.905100	43.3443
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.46277	22.1616
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137982	6.6078
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410716	19.6688
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065776	3.1499
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022437	1.0745
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000467	0.0224
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.152227	7.2900
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004515	0.2162
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00544	0.2605
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022437	1.0745
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.14924	55.0360

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end higher



STOCKS ended slightly higher yesterday after the central bank decided to keep its policy rates at status quo for the moment. Local players have shifted attention to second line stocks in their search for profits in a consolidating market, traders said.

The 33-share composite index added 1.86 points, or 0.11 percent, to end at 1,689.91 points after trading in a narrow range of only 10 points. The index slid 6.49 points, or 0.38 percent, week on week but the index was up 13.08 percent so far this year.

Enrique Sta. Ana, associate director for sales of Vickers Ballas Securities, said another rate cut could have helped the market continue its upturn convincingly "because that would make money flow into the market."

"Local players are in a trading mood since the market is ranging, but slowly volume is picking up so that's a good sign," Sta. Ana said. Turnover jumped to P945.36 million from the previous day's P533.94 million, helped by cross sales in mall developer SM Prime Holdings amounting to P370 million.

Advancers edged out losers 39 to 34, with 64 issues unchanged.

Edison Yap, fund manager of Equitable-PCI Trust which handles funds amounting to about P40 billion, said some investors were waiting for more signals from corporate earnings before committing money in the stock market.

"Earnings are just starting to trickle out... and people are waiting for those releases," Yap said.

Reuters

Ayala Land profit down

AYALA Land Inc., the country's biggest property developer, posted an annual net profit of P1.8 billion in 2000, against P2.60 billion a year ago.

The figure was in line with analysts' forecasts of a decline of about 30 percent in the firm's net profit to P1.8-P1.9 billion for the year, partly

on weak consumer confidence and political and economic worries which resulted in slower sales for its high-end condominium projects.

Ayala Land said its revenue in 2000 reached P10.3 billion. It did not give comparative figures but it reported revenues of P8.94 billion in 1999.

Reuters

INTEREST RATES

DAILY STATISTICAL INDICATORS

February 16, 2001

PARTICULARS	Today	Previous Day	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Bangko Sentral R/P Rates (% p.a.) 1/					
16 February 2001					
Overnight R/P	13.2500	13.2500	13.7500	14.7500	11.0000
Term R/P	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
Interbank Call Loan Rate (% p.a.)					
15 February 2001					
Weighted Ave.	11.1250	11.0938	11.6250	12.5625	8.7188
High	11.3750	11.3750	11.8750	12.8750	8.8750
Low	11.0625	11.0625	11.5625	12.5625	8.6250
Promissory Note Rates (% p.a.) 2/					
15 February 2001					
60 Days	11.7500	10.2500	N.T.	N.T.	8.8329
90 Days	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.
180 Days	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.
Foreign Interest Rates (% p.a.)					
90-day LIBOR	5.4100	5.4000	5.4100	5.6500	6.0900
90-day SIBOR	5.4200	5.4000	5.4100	5.7100	6.0900
180-day LIBOR	5.3000	5.2600	5.2700	5.4800	6.3200
180-day SIBOR	5.3000	5.2500	5.2700	5.5200	6.3200

RP firms eye export mart for excess cement

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE BOARD of Investments has relaxed part of its rules on the exportation of cement to help local manufacturers speed up their shipment of excess capacity.

BOI Executive Director Elmer Hernandez said the BOI has agreed to exempt cement firms' shipments of less than commercial quantity from the mandatory government approval.

Hernandez said the move would allow cement firms to facilitate the shipment of cement samples to other countries prior to delivery of the actual cement orders. However, Hernandez said cement firms would still be required to meet the quality standards imposed by the government before they ship their bulk orders.

The policy was adopted after Solid Cement Corp. applied for authority to export 10 40-kilogram bags to Cemex Central, the company's affiliate in Monterrey, Mexico. These would be used as sample before the company delivers its orders to Mexico.

Solid Cement is the latest cement manufacturer that will tap the overseas market for excess cement. Alsons Cement Corp., Apo Cement and Union Cement Corp. have previously shipped part of their output overseas.

Local cement makers are shipping out their excess capacity to keep supplies manageable and avoid a glut, which would drag down slumping cement prices further.

AWAITING FED MOVE

Bangko Sentral maintains rates

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas kept its overnight rates unchanged yesterday but vowed to pursue a modest rate cut as soon as the US Federal Reserve brings down its policy rates anew.

"Let us see first in the next couple of weeks what the Fed will do. Anyway, the rates are low enough vis-a-vis the 91-day T-bill rate and the Libor," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, chair of the policy-making Monetary Board.

The BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates are at 11 percent and 13.25 percent, respectively, after it implemented a series of cuts since early December last year to bring these down to pre-crisis level.

The 91-day treasury bill rate went

down further to 10.607 percent last Monday while the three-month London interbank offered rate stood at 5.39 percent.

The BSP chief said the inflation rate was also a consideration for monetary authorities in future rate cuts.

He said the BSP has yet to come out with an inflation forecast for February although the consensus among analysts and economists was a 6.5-percent inflation from 6.9 percent in January.

"If the Fed cuts (its rates) further we could calibrate our own cuts. The way I look at it, cuts from the Fed are still forthcoming although they may not be as deep as what was earlier expected," Buenaventura said.

The US Federal Reserve has projected a continued slowdown in the US economy but it sees a recovery toward

year's end. Market experts said this assessment dashed hopes of the market for deeper cuts in US interest rates.

The expectation now is a half-percentage cut in US rates in March and another half-percentage within the second quarter, the BSP chief said.

Buenaventura said the statement of the Federal Reserve was welcome news since it means the US economy would not suffer a recession, which could harm Philippine exports to its biggest market.

He also noted that the rates differential between local and US rates remained healthy and attractive for foreign investors to consider parking their money in the Philippines. Bank analysts said a range of 3 to 4 percentage points was an acceptable level of differential.



PANGILINAN CHAIRS PBSP

Manuel V. Pangilinan, president and CEO of PLDT, is congratulated by outgoing PBSP chair Andres Soriano III (right) after being elected chair of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the country's biggest corporate-led social development foundation. Pangilinan, as new PBSP chair, will be directing the nationwide development agenda of PBSP. More than 160 Filipino corporations support PBSP as an expression of their corporate social responsibility. Founded in 1970, PBSP annually implements an average of 170 poverty alleviation projects totaling P150 million a year in project costs, grants and financial assistance.

PLDT buys out Subic partner

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has gained full ownership of Subic Telecommunications Co. Inc. after it bought the 40-percent stake of US-based AT&T Corp. for \$8 million.

Chip Barton, president of AT&T international ventures Asia Pacific, said that following a review of its operations and investments in the region, the company decided that its key multinational customers in Asia Pacific could be better served by focusing on core business services.

PLDT said in a statement yesterday that the purchase would contribute to revenue generation as Subic Telecom provides telephone services to thousands of business and residential customers in the thriving Subic Bay Freeport.

"The purchase further strengthens PLDT's foothold in that region," Ignatius Yenko, PLDT first vice president for strategy and support, said in the statement.

Pursuant to a facilities management agreement, Subic Telecom also manages and operates the regional telecommunications services of Pilipino Telephone Corp., another PLDT subsidiary, in Subic town and Olongapo City.

Aside from basic and long distance services, Subic Telecom also provides value-added services such as leased lines, Internet, switch digital international services, video conferencing and packet switch service, among others.

On Feb. 7, Mediaquest Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of PLDT's beneficial trust fund, signed a memorandum of understanding with GMA Network Inc. for the acquisition of 66.67 percent in the TV firm.

The deal would cost approximately P8.5 billion. At present, Mediaquest is scouting for foreign financiers who could help the company fund the acquisition.

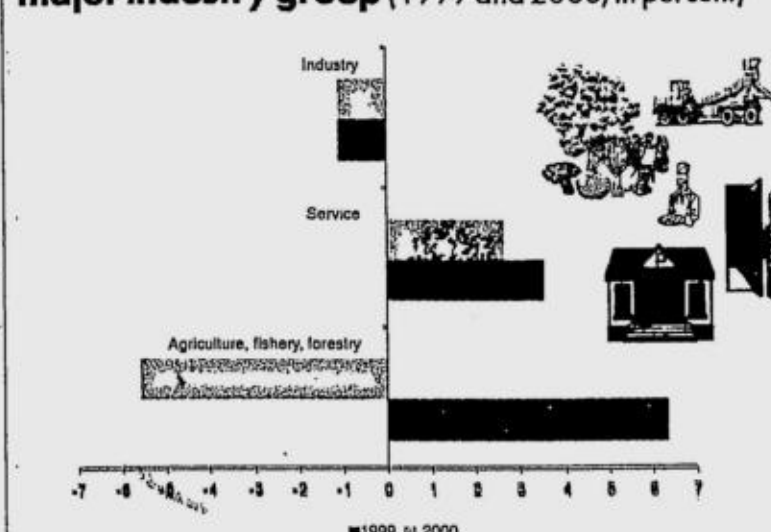
Mediaquest president Antonio R. Samson earlier said the company has shortlisted several foreign investors for funding at most half of the acquisition price for the majority stake in GMA-7.

He said these strategic investors, together with ePLDT, the principal corporate vehicle for PLDT's Internet, e-commerce and multimedia businesses, would maintain their economic interest in GMA through the issuance of Philippine Depositary Receipts (PDRs).

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Average employment growth rates in major industry group (1999 and 2000, in percent)



Source: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics
Average employment in agriculture, fishery and forestry suffered a setback with a fall of 5.6 percent to 10.2 million last year. This sector's share in total employment also dropped from 38.8 percent in 1999 to 37.1 percent in 2000. With companies continuing to restructure by laying off workers, the industry sector suffered its third straight contraction last year in employment which stood at 4.5 million. Although service registered positive growths for 1999 and 2000, the rise last year was the lowest since 1996.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Used oil recycler gets tax incentives

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

AN ENTERPRISING Filipino company, Bensan Industries Inc., is spending some P101.53 million to recycle used oil to produce lube oil, asphalt and wax.

The project was granted fiscal incentives by the Board of Investments under the oil industry deregulation law, which encourages environment-friendly activities in the petroleum business.

Bensan, owned by businessman Benjamin Santos, has been registered as a pioneer company engaged in the production of re-refined oil from used or waste oil products with a capacity of 60,000 barrels a year.

In its new project, Bensan plans to produce up to 72,000 drums of used oil feedstock on its third year of operations. The machinery and equipment are expected to arrive in September this year and commercial operations are expected to begin by March 2002.

The project is eligible for incentives under the 2000 Investment Priorities Plan's mandatory inclusions for refining, storage, marketing and distribution of petroleum products.

Bensan employs its patented "zero-waste process," an improved version of the "acid-clay" recovery method. Based on this process, the spent clay can be reactivated or recycled, which will eliminate the need to dispose of the raw product. The process is expected to produce wax during the extraction process.

The firm plans to churn out 50,400 drums of lube oil a year, 14,400 drums of asphalt a year, and 144,000 kilograms of wax a year. The firm plans to operate three eight-hour shifts a day for 300 days a year. Bensan expects its products' prices to increase by 5 percent annually.

VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

Capt. Henry P. Javier St. Bg. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. 631-1711 Email: vvc@metrobank.com

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBER'S MEETING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2001 AT 3:00 P.M.

Dear Member:

Please be advised that the Board of Directors has set the Annual Member's Meeting for this year to be held on February 24, 2001 at the La Colina Room, Valle Verde Country Club, Capt. Henry P. Javier St. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City. The meeting will start at 3:00 p.m.

The Agenda of the meeting will be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting last February 26, 1996.
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Report of the External Auditor
7. Approval of Financial Statements
8. Ratification and Confirmation of all acts, contracts, deeds of the Board of Directors and Management from the last Annual Meeting up to February 24, 2001.
9. Election of the Members of the Board of Directors
10. Election of External Auditor
11. Other matters
12. Adjournment

Members submitting nominees for inclusion in the list of candidates are requested to provide a brief background of their nominees.

The board scheduled the validation of proxies on February 19, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. All proxies of corporations or any juridical entity should be accompanied by a certification that the person nominated as proxy is authorized by its Board of Directors or the proper governing authority of the juridical entity.

Pasig City, Philippines
December 2000

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Sgd) AUGUSTO B. SUMICO
Corporate Secretary

Over my nerd buddy

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

ONLY a few days after it was installed into power, the cute administration of Gloriaaetta announced it would ditch the omnibus power bill. Just like that! It was only a package of reforms, anyway, which could only benefit consumers. Yes, only you and me!

What's more, its contents took a lot of haggling among everybody in the power sector for more than five years. Plus, if we put the reforms into motion, we could get some P50 billion in soft loans from abroad. What's all that—peanuts?

Sure, we can always afford to waste five years. It was only Gloriaaetta herself who said the economy was "tattered." And what's some P50 billion? This cute administration is wallowing in so much money, it is staring at a P146-billion budget deficit.

Apparently, it was a misfire. According to her economic team, Gloriaaetta said she would ditch the bill, but she really did not mean it. She must have picked up such a style of decision making from her executive secretary. You know—teka, teka.

IT seems somebody whispered to Gloriaaetta that, in only its first year, the bill would already cost her administration about P10 billion. Over my dead body, was probably her initial reaction. Now it turns out to be an over-reaction.

Reports quoted Gloriaaetta as saying that her administration could not afford to pay for the P10-billion initial cost of the bill. It seems the P10-billion figure is just part of the so-called stranded cost amounting to many more billions. Now this is a long story.

But to make it short, the story started during the term of Kuya Eddie. At that time, the government got itself into wonderful contracts with private firms to generate electricity. This was to be sold to state-owned Napocor at stick-'em-up prices.

For instance, a company called

Reynolds, known for aluminum goods, suddenly went into power generation through its firm Enron. This got a nice contract from Napocor. Today, Reynolds is losing. Luckily, it is making a killing in Enron. Nice, no?

THOSE contracts were made under the administration of a political party known as Lakas-NUCD. Whadayano, it's the very same political party of Gloriaaetta! Should we take it then, she was turning a blind eye to her own party's foolishness? Not nice, no?

Precisely, the power reform bill was taking forever in Congress because our lawmakers almost got into a civil war among themselves over those billions of "stranded cost." Who should shoulder it? And the choices were: 1) taxpayers, or 2) consumers.

Look at that—either way, we're f...ed. The government can pay for it out of taxes, which come from us. Or, consumers can pay for it in their electricity bills. That, for the sake of the husbands of actresses who are running for public office, is also "us."

Latest estimates show, because of those nice contracts with private power generating firms, our beloved Napocor stands to lose something like P150 billion. Easily! If you feel lucky, punk, it can even reach P200 billion.

TO think, word goes around that somebody behind a number of those nice contracts is angling for the position of—surprise—energy secretary. This is the same guy under whose leadership Napocor spent, in only one year, more

than P100 million for travel.

Now contrast such a nice record with those of other candidates for the position, say, former Rep. Dante Tinga. The position is so hotly contested all of the candidates are getting backers from all walks of big business life. Tinga is the only exception.

A buddy of his said Tinga was actually a nerd. Well, not only was he a Bar topnotcher, he also stayed in school after graduation. He later served as dean of its law college. Sorry, I hate nerds. I was kicked out of school for bad grades.

That's why I'd rather consider Tinga's record as chair of the energy committee of the House of Representatives. He made the power reform bill as the committee's top priority. His version earned the World Bank's endorsement. Sadly, not Gloriaaetta's.

BUT that was only initially, based on my info from her own economic team. Gloriaaetta, in the beginning, did not like the power reform bill because somebody whispered to her its huge cost in the first year of this cute administration. Things were corrected since.

It turned out that nobody even saw yet the final version of the bill, the one from the bicameral committee. Nobody, thus, had any idea just exactly how much would be shouldered by the administration. So that's the power of "bulong."

In the recent Lédac meeting, however, the power sector reform bill made a surprise appearance a la Shawi and Ate Vi at the Comelec on the deadline of the filing of candidacy. Lawmakers promised to pass the bill before this Congress closes in June.

Or, if the cute administration of Gloriaaetta can build a consensus right away, Congress may even hold a special session just to approve the bill. Gloriaaetta then gets P50 billion in cheap loans. We then get a break in our electricity bills.

Equitable buyer known next week

(From page B1)

friendship with the impeached president, who was later on ousted amid accusations of receiving multimillion payoffs from illegal gambling.

Financial advisers JP Morgan and ING Barings have been tapped to help Equitable PCI shareholders evaluate the merger and acquisition proposals from interested parties.

Go owns a 34-percent direct stake

and another 5 to 10 percent indirect stake in Equitable PCI while his strategic partners, government pension funds Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System own a joint 25-percent stake.



You are made to excell

METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC.

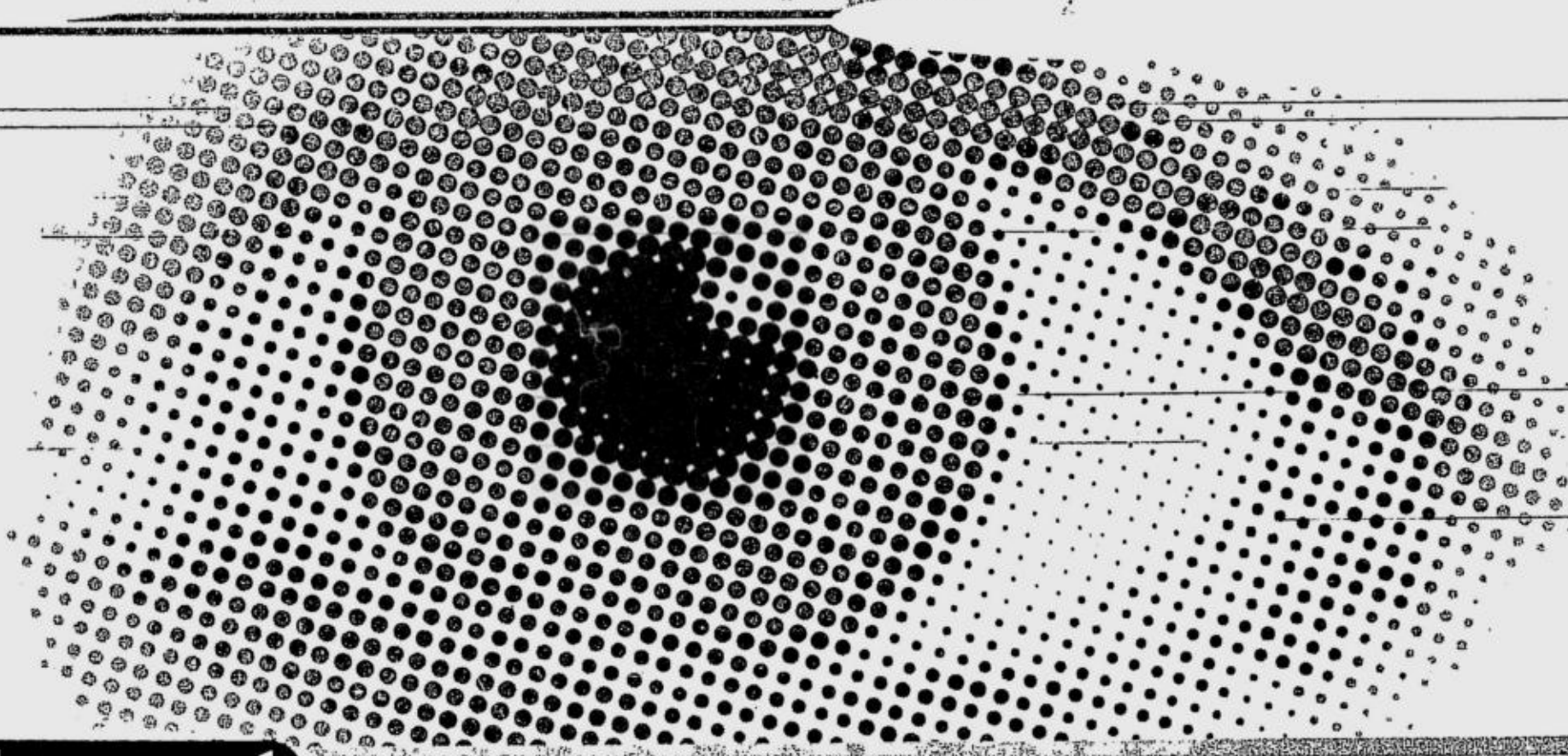
Member: League of Corporate Foundations, Inc.



TOKAI BANK

join hands to

Share the Gift of Vision...



> Cataract

has been the leading cause of blindness among Filipinos.

To help people with this disability, the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. and Tokai Bank, through the Manila Doctors Hospital launch the "SHARE THE GIFT OF VISION" project with a fund of US\$60,000.

Within three years starting March 2001, the project will restore the sight of 600 to 1,000 indigent Filipinos stricken with blindness due to cataract.

The "SHARE THE GIFT OF VISION" is the Corporate Social Responsibility project of the Metrobank Group of Companies in support of the VISION 2020 program of the World Health Organization.

DAVAO LIGHT

ERB clears P500-M loan

By RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE ENERGY Regulatory Board has approved the P500-million loan of Davao Light and Power Co. Inc. from Japan Export-Import Bank.

In a five-page decision, the ERB said Davao Light was capable of servicing the debt considering its available assets.

According to its financial statements, Davao Light is worth about P583.7 million as of end-1999. It reported a net

income of P48.6 million that year out of P190.9 million in operational earnings and P528 million in retained earnings.

The ERB said the loan would not affect Davao Light's return-on-rate-base—a measure of its profitability in relation to its assets and liabilities. It would instead enhance the efficiency and reliability of the utility's services.

The loan, which will be coursed through the Development Bank of the

Philippines, will be serviced in five years. It has a provision for a two-year grace period.

Davao Light said the loan would be used to fund its short-term loan and to replace its P300-million long-term commercial paper, which is nearing maturity.

The power utility's short-term loans were used for operating requirement and acquisition of operating assets.

The application for the P500-million loan was filed on Oct. 30 last year.

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Feb. 16 to 20, 2001

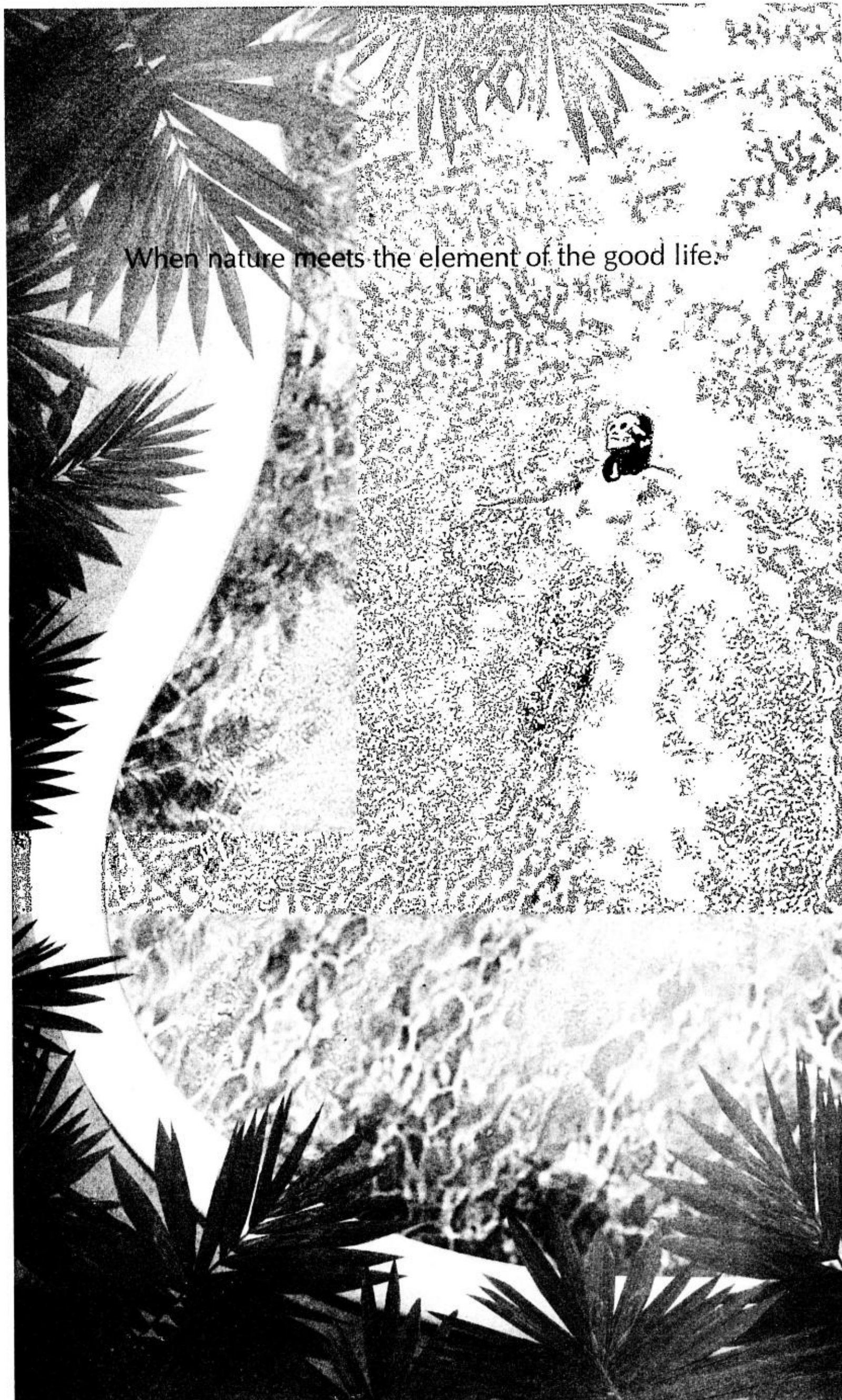
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0191 Series of 2001



When nature meets the element of the good life.

BAY GARDENS



Life is everything in Bay Gardens where each day is, at all times, an occasion for leisure. Swim. Jog on the landscaped trails. Go for fitness at the gym, taekwondo and health club. Watch your kids play in open space.

Along Roxas Boulevard, Bay Gardens is close to everything. It's within Metropolitan Park, a master-planned community where business, health, educational and commercial centers will grow in unison with the greens. Bay Gardens. At home with nature in the city.

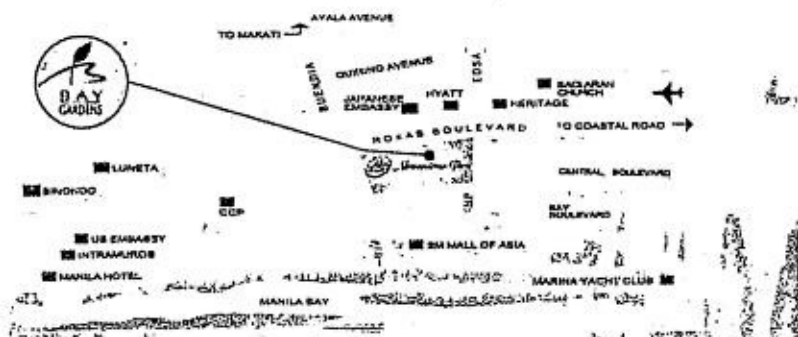


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MODEL UNITS NOW AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING



A Residential Garden in
Metropolitan Park
Life blooms, here.

Owner/Developer: BAYWATCH REALTY CORP.

A Joint Venture of Federal Homes, Inc. and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. Japan

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*Travel must be completed by March 31, 2001. Promo duration: February 17 to March 28, 2001 / Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0213 Series of 2001 / www.qantas.com.au



Capwire, creditors to start debt restructuring program

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

CAPITOL Wireless Inc. will start implementing next month its debt restructuring agreement with creditors and resume paying interests on its P1 billion worth of debts.

Capwire chief finance officer Joel Aguilar yesterday said the company had informed its creditors about the decision of the court allowing them to proceed with the implementation of the debt restructuring deal.

On Sept. 27, 2000, Capwire signed a debt restructuring agreement with its creditors after years of protracted negotiations. It was the first debt restructuring agreement to be signed in the country since the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

However, Capwire had asked the

courts to look at the deal and ensure that the creditors would not move to foreclose the company.

"The court has reviewed the agreement in January and found nothing wrong. So we advised our creditors that an order from the court is out already. By March we would start servicing interest payments after the signing of the debt service agreement," he said.

He added that Capwire's payments would be covered through the trustee bank, United Overseas Bank (formerly Westmont Bank).

When the debt restructuring agreement was signed in September last year, Capwire paid approximately P18 million for interest charges due as of June 2000. Interest payments were supposed to be

paid on a quarterly basis. However, Capwire has yet to pay interests due December 2000.

Meanwhile, Aguilar noted that the company's performance in the first six months (June to December 2000) its current fiscal year "was not so good."

"(It was) not as expected, ILD (international long distance) was 20 percent up. However rates went down," he said.

The company is now looking for possible partners for specific projects or for fresh capital infusion.

Under the indicative terms and conditions of the debt restructuring plan, the loans will be divided into two tranches. Approximately 75 percent of the loans will be placed under the first tranche and the bal-

ance, under the second tranche.

Tranche 1 is payable in seven years, inclusive of a two-year grace period for principal payments. The second tranche is payable in eight years, inclusive of three years grace.

Interest charges on the loans being restructured will be based on 91-day T-bill rate plus 2 percent per year but not exceeding 15 percent per year.

The biggest creditors and their respective loans to Capwire are Land Bank of the Philippines, P391 million; Development Bank of the Philippines, P190 million; Philippine National Bank, P153 million, and Urban Bank, P133 million.

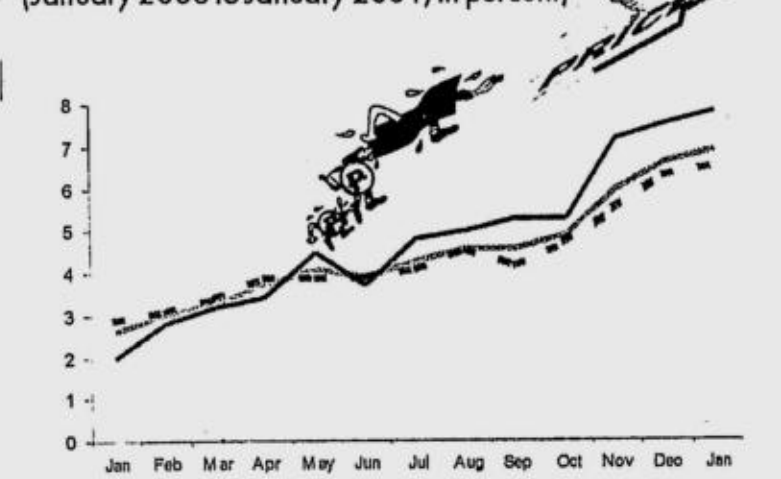
The others include Far East Bank and Trust Co., Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., PCIBank, Westmont Bank and Manulife Inc.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Inflation rates

(January 2000 to January 2001, in percent)



* AOMM - areas outside Metro Manila
Source: NSO

Nine out of the country's sixteen regions posted higher inflation rates in January compared to December. Inflation rates for most commodity groups rose with food, beverage and tobacco moving up to 5.2 percent in January from 5.1 percent in December. Clothing was up by 0.3 percentage point from 3.4 percent; housing and housing repairs, 5.6 percent from 5.5 percent; services, 13.6 percent from 13.5 percent and miscellaneous items 6.8 percent from 3.3 percent.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Jollibee reports 3.3% income drop

FAST-FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. (JFC) suffered a 3.3-percent decline in its income after tax in 2000 despite a strong fourth quarter that generated P303 million.

In a briefing yesterday, JFC chief finance officer Mike Navarette said that inflation, the depreciation of the peso and an increase in petroleum prices were reasons for the decrease.

He said the strong fourth quarter and a good January 2001 figures gave the company "optimism" for the year 2001.

"The first month (of 2001) is much better and we are encouraged by what we see," Navarette said.

The Senate's elections should boost sales in the first half of 2001, he added. Navarette said JFC's subsidiary pizza chain Greenwich had "bottomed out" during 2000.

"Greenwich had a management issue. We have restructured its management. We were disappointed with Greenwich," he said.

"Through the year, it had some months where it was not profitable but overall it's still profitable."

"Chow King became more signifi-

cant than expected. It had 13-percent growth in the fourth quarter last year.

"Its contribution to the market should be maintained and enhanced. We now have a healthy growth of base business."

Chow King contributed P710 million in the fourth quarter.

Consolidated total revenues for JFC rose 19.2 percent to P15.4 billion for 2000.

Net income after non-recurring items for JFC increased 12.8 percent to P907 million. Common share net income was 6.9 percent lower at P0.906 from P.835 in 1999.

JFC opened 67 new stores during 2000. As many as 110 new stores may be opened in the Philippines in 2001, with a possible 15 stores internationally located in Hong Kong and the West Coast of the United States.

During 2001, the company expects to build a manufacturing and distribution facility worth P700 million. Out of a capex budget of 1.5 billion, the remaining 800 million will be divided up between Jollibee, Chow King, Greenwich and Delifrance stores. Jollibee will receive P350 million. *Any Bainbridge*

Shell, Caltex allowed to defer IPOs

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has allowed the country's No. 2 and No. 3 oil refiners to go around a law that requires them to issue shares to the public this month.

In a seven-page opinion issued on Monday, the justice department said the three-year period given to Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. for them to issue shares to the public was not mandatory.

Pilipinas Shell and Caltex are required under the oil industry deregulation law to offer shares to the public this month, but these firms

insist that a slump in the local bourse will tug at their bottom lines. Shares of the country's biggest oil firm, Petron, are already being traded.

Section 22 of the Oil Deregulation Act of 1998 requires local oil refiners to let the public own at least 10 percent of their equities.

The justice department said the law's deadline "should be regarded as directory only."

"Broadening the base of ownership of oil companies is the purpose of the law, and this will definitely be served (if the three-year rule) were interpreted liberally," the DOJ said.

"(This) will not prohibit an IPO to be conducted after the lapse of (the three-year) period," it said.

The justice department agreed with Shell and Caltex that an initial public offering at this time "is likely to have material and negative consequences for the Philippine government, the investment community, the faith of investors in the economy, in general, and the securities market, in particular."

Caltex is owned by US oil giants Texaco Inc. and Chevron USA Inc., producing about 72,000 barrels of oil a day locally. Pilipinas Shell is a subsidiary of the Royal Dutch/

Shell Group of Companies.

The country's stock market has been hit hard by a stock price manipulation scandal involving property firm Fairmont Holdings Inc., formerly known as BW Resources Corp., and President Estrada's Senate corruption trial.

The DOJ also ruled that a provision in the oil industry deregulation law prohibiting ownership of shares in more than one oil company should be interpreted liberally.

It said only investors who held a "substantial interest" in an oil company should be barred from acquiring shares in another oil company.

BPI profit down 35%

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

BANK of the Philippine Islands yesterday said its profit last year plunged 35 percent to P3.05 billion from P4.68 billion the previous year on the back of higher loan-loss provisioning expense and the costs of its merger with Far East Bank and Trust Co. and Ayalala Insurance Holdings Corp.

In an earlier interview, BPI president Xavier Loinaz said the bank was looking at double-digit earnings growth this year from last year given that all merger-related costs were fully charged to 2000.

BPI's net interest income last year fell by P504 million or 3.5 percent as a result of a higher level of non-performing loans and accrual adjustments on the portfolio of FEBTC, which BPI absorbed early last year.

Its newly acquired insurance companies dragged down the bank's non-interest income. The insurance units, which underwent business restructuring during the year, posted negative operating results, thus

pulling down by 10.9 percent or P308 million the non-interest income of BPI.

Loans extended by BPI last year expanded by 8.4 percent to P193.1 billion with NPLs accounting for 12 percent of the total. BPI set aside P3.62 billion in loan-loss provisions to bring its total loan loss reserves to P14.2 billion. Reserve cover amounted to 60 percent of NPLs.

Aside from large loan-loss provisioning, BPI's one-off costs of P1.24 billion relative to the merger with FEBTC and AIHC also contributed largely to the decline of BPI's net income last year.

BPI disclosed that its manpower headcount fell to 10,934 by end-2000 from 13,021 at the start of the year.

BPI has a total number of 688 branches nationwide including 75 express banking centers.

BPI's total resources stood at P379.55 billion as of end last year while deposits amounted to P295.75 billion or 9.2 percent higher than the 1999 level.

Sanwa Bank spokesman Keiji Minami declined to comment on the report. The Japanese bank owns 25 percent of RCBC, the nation's eighth largest lender by assets.

Officials at RCBC and Banco Santander couldn't be reached for comment, while Alberto Reyes, deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said he was unaware of the report, though a sale is in progress.

"Interested investors are talking with the advisers, ING Barings and JP Morgan Chase," Reyes said. "If they are able to come up with a short list then we will probably know (the investors) next week."

Aside from RCBC, Sanwa Bank and Banco Santander, local newspapers have reported that other potential buyers of Equitable PCI include Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Bank of the Philippines Islands, Standard Chartered Plc, DBS Group Holdings Ltd. and Newbridge Capital Inc.

The bank's results were released in a statement to the stock exchange today. Edilberto Javier, Equitable's chief operating officer, was unavailable for comment.

Bloomberg

DISCLOSURES

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. scheduled on April 10 was postponed due to the unavailability of its audited financial statements. The new date will be reported as soon as determined.

CONCRETE Aggregates Corp. engaged the services of Philex Mining Corp. to provide mine engineering and superintendence to Concrete Aggregate's quarry and extraction operations in Angono, Rizal. The implementation of the contract started on Feb. 10.

MABUHAY Vinyl Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on March 31, 3 p.m., at the Mondragon House, Makati City.

EMPIRE East Land Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 15, 9 a.m., at the New Eastwood City Information Center, Eastwood CityWalk, Bagumbayan, Quezon City.

ACTIVE Alliance Inc. said it has no knowledge of any information that caused the unusual decrease of its share price on Feb. 15.

THE AMENDED articles of incorporation and amended by-laws of First Metro Investment Corp. was approved by its stockholders by deleting the provisions on the trust business and redeemable preferred shares of the corporation.

ALASKA Milk Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 22, at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Friday, February 16, 2001)				VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Aseistrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	55,000
Banko Filipino Sav & Mort	120	120	120	120	30
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	71	70	70	42,800
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	180
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	60	62	60.5	60	439,700
Global Business Bank Inc.	66	66	65	65	1,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	230	233	229	233	36,500
Philippine National Bank	35.5	36	35.5	35	170,000
Rizal Comm'l Bkg. Corp. A	29	29	28.5	28.5	1,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	28.5	28.5	11,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	190,000
Philippine Fund Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	200	200	200	200	80
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1240	1180	1180	2,730
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	530,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1045	1045	1005	1005	10,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	49	50	49	50	55,500
Digital Telecom Phila. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	8,750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	715	715	715	715	210
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	3,000,000
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Piltel	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	80,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Phil. Long Dia Tel Co.	870	870	850	850	30,010
Intanet Corp.	1.22	1.28	1.16	1.16	5,632,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.0775	0.08	80,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	51	51.5	51	51.5	6,400
Manila Electric Co. B	61.5	61.5	61	61.5	845,300
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.04	2	2	5,371,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	475,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.42	7,408,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	20,000
Nagros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
William, Gothong & Aboltiz	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	800,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	1,630,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	8,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	78,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.25	132,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	54,200
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	50,000
RFM Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.34	2,686,000
San Miguel Corp. A	50.5	51	50.5	51	22,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	62	62	195,800
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	200,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	20,000
Ayala Corp.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	931,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	450,000
Aboltiz Equity Ventures	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	58,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.25	1,400
Ajo-Nat Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.1	180,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	140,000
APC Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,710,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.007	0.0085	0.007	85,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	5,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	1,838,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	30,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	140,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.55	0.56	0.54	0.56	1,050,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	4,800,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	1.45	1.56	1.44	1.54	11,118,000
Fininvest Dev. Corp.	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	188,300
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	670,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Gucci Holdings (Phils.)	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	98,000
Ionics Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.95	481,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.02	2	2	125,000
MacroAsia Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	2,300,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	3,500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.95	1	0.95	0.97	15,040,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	2,530,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.8	510,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.42	7,220,000
Univest Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	160,000
Vallex Industries Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.29	0.33	22,700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.					
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Maacorday Plastics Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.4	7.4	12,000
Muslic Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.3	3.3	285,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	2,400,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	30,000
Proysa Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	220,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	70,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	11.5	12	11.5	12	239,500
SPI Technologies Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	40,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	810,000
Belle Corp.	0.75	0.79	0.74	0.76	4,110,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	5,490,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
Manila Jockey Club	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	3,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.					
Philippine Racing Club					
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	90,000,000
Aba-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	50.5	50.5	50.5	50.5	152,500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	4.2	4.55	4.2	4.45	2,202,000
Jollibee Warrants	11	11.25	10.75	10.75	15,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
Waterfront Phils.-Warrant	0.0775	0.0875	0.0775	0.0825	3,700,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	13,855,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.48	0.43	0.48	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	7,800,000
Empire East Land Inc.	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.95	35,311,000
Flintvest Land Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	500,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,500,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	2,790,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.12	0.12	8,300,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	185,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	160,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	0.92	0.95	0.92	0.95	630,000
Phil. Realty and Holdings	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	57,607,000
SM Development Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	830,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	120,000
Universal Rapid Prop.					
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	3,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	13,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.008	0.008	61,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	355,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	273,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	140,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	2,100,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Pacificoil	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	4,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.125	0.11	0.125	700,000
SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	1,481,560				59,432,420
Comm'l & Ind'l	393,359,820				251,321,695.00
PRO	735,059,024				633,373,350.00
Mining	19,800,000				5,083,300.00
Oil	1,254,859,380				294,490.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,254,859,380				949,505,165.00
VALUES					
Banks & Fin Svc	626.89				UP 3.7%
Comm'l & Ind'l	229.95				DOWN 2.6%
PRO	656.30				UP 40.0%
Mining	1,349.71				UNCH 0.0%
Oil	781.33				DOWN 18.6%
Composite	1,689.91				UP 1.8%
NO. OF ADVANCES: 39; NO. OF DECLINES: 34; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 64; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES 137; NO. OF TRADES: 3,929					

People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Shell offers 'F1 Mania in Malaysia 3' promo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corporation's "F1 Mania in Malaysia" promo is now on its third year and this exciting promo continues to thrill Formula 1 racing fanatics.

The "F1 Mania in Malaysia 3" promo offers customers of Shell Velocity, Shell Helix Oils and Shell-Citibank MasterCard holders, the chance to catch the 2001 Malaysian Grand Prix and witness world champions Michael Schumacher and the Ferrari team defend their titles at the Sepang Circuit this March.

Customers making a single minimum purchase of Shell Velocity or any Shell Helix Oils

worth P300 or using their Shell-Citibank MasterCard to purchase any Shell products at participating Shell service stations may join the promo and receive raffle coupons. Approved Shell-Citibank MasterCard applications during the promo period may also qualify. Raffle entries should be dropped at designated boxes to qualify to the grand draw where round-trip tickets to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for 4 days, 3 nights stay with hotel accommodations and transportation will be given out to grand prize winners. Promo runs until Feb 28, 2001.



BPI SPONSORS TRAVEL TOUR EXPO 2001

The official credit card of the Travel Tour Expo 2001, Bank of the Philippine Islands signs the diamond sponsorship contract with representatives from the Philippine Travel Agencies Association. Shown signing the agreement are (seated, from left) Annette R. Feliciano, VP for administration; Josephine Ocampo, BPI Card Corporation president; Marilen Yaptangco, TTE 2001 chair, and Andrew Cajucum, BPI senior manager. Standing are (from left) Carolina Maala, PTAA secretary general; Sandy Sierra, PRO; Mila Suarez, VP-Outbound; Jojo Clemente III, VP-Inbound; Alice San Juan, solicitations committee head; Ricky Ordoñez, PTAA president; Louise Aubin del Rosario, former PTAA trustee and Trippy, TTE 2001 mascot.

PNP celebrates 10th year with Searle & Pfizer

THE PHILIPPINE National Police observed its 10th foundation anniversary and culminated their Police Community Relations Month last Feb. 3, 2001.

Billed as "Celebrate Family Day for the Police and the Community," members of the police force brought their relatives and started their day-long festivities with aerobic exercises.

The pulsating and

invigorating music encouraged even the senior citizens and the so-called macho policemen to do the challenging aerobic routines.

Searle & Pfizer gave the attendees free arthritis consultations, Celecoxib starter kits and snacks in cooperation with the Arthritis Care and Research Foundation. A drawing contest for kids and free concert by the country's top alternative bands capped the day's celebration.

Jollibee toys let you discover the wonderful world of music

DO you know that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, one of the greatest composers of all time, showed musical gifts at a very early age? He started composing at age five. At six, he was already playing before royalties such as the Bavarian elector and the Austrian empress. Luckily for Mozart, apart from his inherent musical talent, he had a supportive family who further nourished his inclination towards music.

Fastfood leader Jollibee likewise encourages kids to discover the wonderful world of music with its latest novelty item—Jollibee Music Squad. The musical instruments-cum-toys feature Cartoon

Network's most lovable characters.

Play the maracas with Jane Jetson—just split her space scooter apart! Play the flute with Muttley's raccar. Little drummer boys and girls are sure to have a good time banging up the Tom & Jerry drum as Jerry plays catch with Tom. Meanwhile, watch Yogi Bear slide down the mountain after playing the bugle.

The Jollibee Music Squad comes with Jolly Kiddie Meals: regular yum with drink for P45.75; spaghetti special with drink for P51.75 and Chickenjoy with drink for P66.75. Promo ends March 14.

Philippine Hospital Asso. holds meet at Fort Ilocandia

THE PHILIPPINE Hospital Association (PHA) will conduct its first of ten regional seminar-dialogues among its members at Waterfront Hotel, Fort Ilocandia, Laoag City on Feb. 24, 2001. All hospitals, through their representatives in Regions 1 and 2 and C.A.R. are expected to be represented in this annual seminar.

Topics of primary importance to hospitals will be discussed by authoritative speakers, particularly from the PHIC and DOH. Other subject matters which will enhance quality hospital care will also be taken up.

These activities are gleaned towards the realization of the organization's vision and mission which were recently amended to conform with the needs of the hospitals and its obligations and relations to the community, other health agencies, Asean Association of Hospitals and global responsibilities to the international community of hospitals. This activity will be replicated in all the regions of the country and to culminate with the 52nd PHA Annual National Convention on Nov. 28 and 29, 2001 at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Pedro Gil, Ermita, Manila.



CONCERT SPONSOR

Jack n' Jill Piattos sponsored the thanksgiving concert of Regine Velasquez at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City. Velasquez is shown with Jack n' Jill Piattos brand assistant Steve Baltao.



QS 9000 CERTIFICATION

Electronic Assemblies Inc. (EAI), the PCB flagship company of the Ayala Corporation, was recently awarded the QS 9000 Certification at the Ayala Alabang Country Club. EAI is the first Filipino-owned company to be given this certification by SGS Philippines. EAI manufactures a wide range of products whose applications are in telecommunications, automotive, computers and computer peripherals, network infrastructures, industrial equipment and consumer electronics. Shown are (from left) David Harlock, SGS Phils. general manager; Rei A. Lacson, EAI president; Filemon T. Erba, IMI vice chair and CEO; and Francis I. Ferrer, IMI group president.



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Thames International Business School participated in the UK Education Fair held at the Hotel Intercon to open opportunities to Filipino students to graduate with a foreign degree without the usual obstacles of cost and time constraints. The Intercontinental college now accepts applications for March and June terms. For more information, call 723-2207 or email at inquire@thamesintl.com. Shown are (from left) Thames director Joel Santos, Sharad Ladva, entry clearance manager of British embassy; Vivienne Tan, Thames Philippines CEO; British ambassador Alan Collin, and British Council director Rodney Bell.



VALUE PLUS PROGRAM 2000 AWARDS NIGHT

Millennium Plaza Hotel hosted an appreciation party to honor the hotel's corporate accounts, an expression of gratitude and appreciation for their unending support to the hotel. Colgate-Palmolive Philippines was awarded the Value Plus Program "2nd Top Producer" Year 2000. Shown are (from left) Dean Y. Cid, MPH operations manager; Edmund M. Valencia, MPH deputy resident manager; Ehmeo A. Gabaldon, Colgate-Palmolive Phils sales executive assistant; Melesa D. Chua, MPH's president and CEO; and Sophia Altamirano, MPH sales manager.

Pokemon mall tour resumes tomorrow

EXCITING and first-class card game action among the country's Pokemon Trading Card Game (TCG) wizards returns to the malls as the Pokemon TCG resumes its monthly tournament series tomorrow, starting at 10 a.m. at the Glorietta Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City.

A total of 64 veteran and top-caliber participants using 60-card decks will see action in the contest series to be conducted monthly until May as qualifying contests for the grand finals in June.

A new level of competitive excitement is expected to be generated among contestants with the use of the newly-launched Pokemon Gym expansion series featuring the Heroes and Challenge card sets.

Another highlight of the monthly tournament is the King of the Hill contest, an informal tournament in which trainers using 60-card decks battle each other to gain three consecutive victories that will qualify them to join a mini-tournament after their names have been drawn in a raffle.

They also earn corresponding points for every game played and won as a member of the Pokemon TCG League.

The schedule of the succeeding monthly tournaments: March 25, Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Center; April 29, Festival Supermall; May 27, Robinson's Galleria and June 24 Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall.

Seminar on the ABCs of marketing

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association (PMA) will hold a seminar on "The ABC's of Marketing" on Feb. 20, 21 and 23, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Accend, AIM Conference Center in Makati City. The seminar aims to teach participants the basics of marketing through high-impact presentations by topnotch marketing practitioners and academics from various fields. Seminar fee is P5,500 for PMA members and P6,000 for non-members. The registration fee is inclusive of seminar materials, identification card and snacks. For registration and inquiries, contact the PMA secretariat at 892-3144 or 893-7127. You may also email pma@philonline.com.

Mister Donut love tins

THIS love month of February, express your warmth to your special someone with Mister Donut Love Tins, definitely Mister Donut's new way of saying "I love you." Choose from these varieties: six chocolate-coated Bavarian-filled love nuts, three irresistible junior donuts or one luscious heart-shaped donut. Tins are affordably priced between P35-P45 only.



COFFEE PARTNERS

Roberto D.S. Francisco, president of Boyd Coffee Co. (Phils.) Inc. (right); Flavio Urizzi, export manager (left) and Nello dal Tio, president of C.M.A./Astoria coffee machines share a light moment during Francisco's recent trip to Astoria headquarters in Susegana, Italy. Francisco has been the distributor of Astoria espresso machines in the Philippines since 1995. Astoria machines are being used by most coffee shops, restaurants and boutiques cafes, not only in Metro Manila but as far as Davao, Cebu and Iloilo.



JEWELRY FEST FOR CITIBANK CREDIT CARDHOLDERS

In partnership with the Guild of Philippine Jewelers (GPJ), Citibank recently held a jewelry fair at the World Trade Center. The country's largest issuer of credit cards brought together over 70 of the biggest jewelry merchants who presented their latest designs. The opening rites were led by representatives from GPJ, Citibank and major exhibitors including (from left) Patrick Lawrence Tan, Abelardo Mondonado, Hans Brumann, Ronald Velayo, Ricky Villalacisneros and Rene Florencio. Citibank credit cardholders can still avail of special discounts and Paylite installment terms for their jewelry purchases at major jewelry stores nationwide until March 30, 2001.



FILIPINO WORK VALUES SEMINAR

Members of the Personnel Managers Association of the Philippines (PMAP) pose with Nestlé Pullan factory executives, headed by factory manager Ed Legasto (extreme right), after the pilot run of the two-day seminar on Making Values Work in Industrial Relations. Facilitated by lawyer Ester Garcia of the PMAP (center), the seminar discussed ways Filipino work values may be harnessed to promote a positive work attitude in an industrial setting.

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CONTACT MS. MERA CANTILLO OR DONNA GERONIMO. TEL. NOS. 527-7070 TO 79.

(PDI - Feb. 17 & 18, 2001)

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Siemens C35i (WAP)	5,995	5,495	4,995	1,995	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	6,995	6,495	5,995	2,995	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	11,395	10,895	10,395	7,395	4,395
Nokia 8250	17,695	17,195	16,695	13,695	10,695
Siemens S40	18,495	17,995	17,495	14,495	11,495
Siemens SL45	23,495	22,995	22,495	19,495	17,495
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	39,750	38,750

All plans require an Entrance fee of P1,650.

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Siemens S40	17,595	14,495	12,495	10,495	7,495
Siemens SL45	23,595	20,995	17,995	11,995	10,995
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	35,750	31,750

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Nokia 3310	4,895	2,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	5,645	3,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	9,795	6,195	3,495	FREE	FREE
Nokia 8250	16,295	12,995	10,995	8,995	5,995
Siemens S40	17,095	13,995	11,995	9,995	6,995
Siemens SL45	23,095	19,995	16,995	10,995	9,995
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	30,750	26,750

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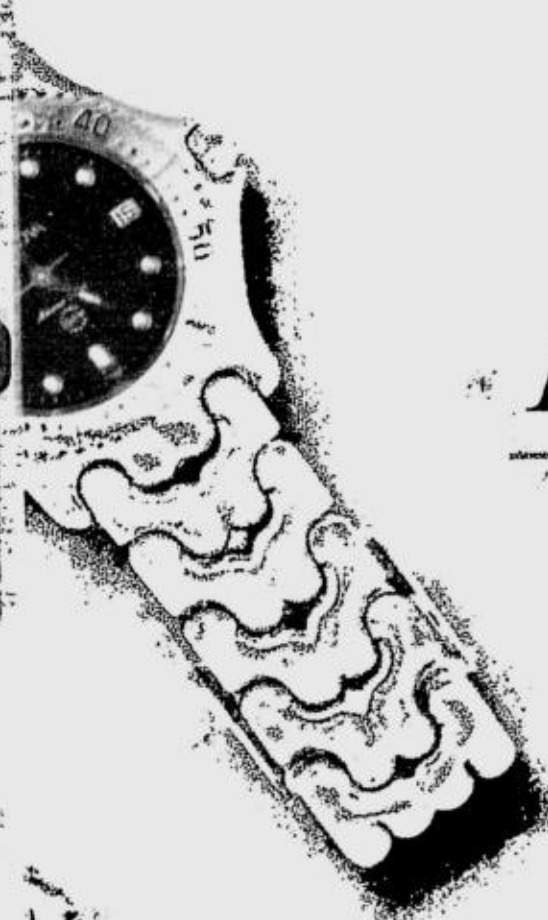
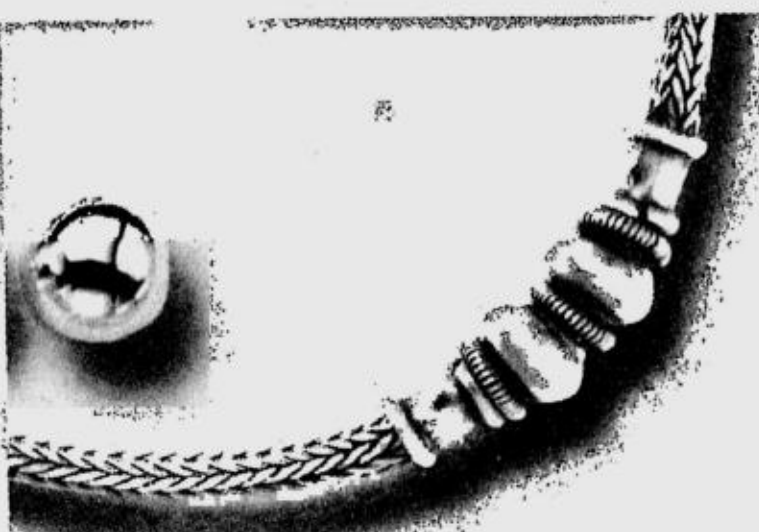
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Nokia 8250	4,995	2,595	FREE
Siemens S40	5,500	3,295	FREE
Siemens SL45	12,000	9,495	4,995
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	22,995	18,995

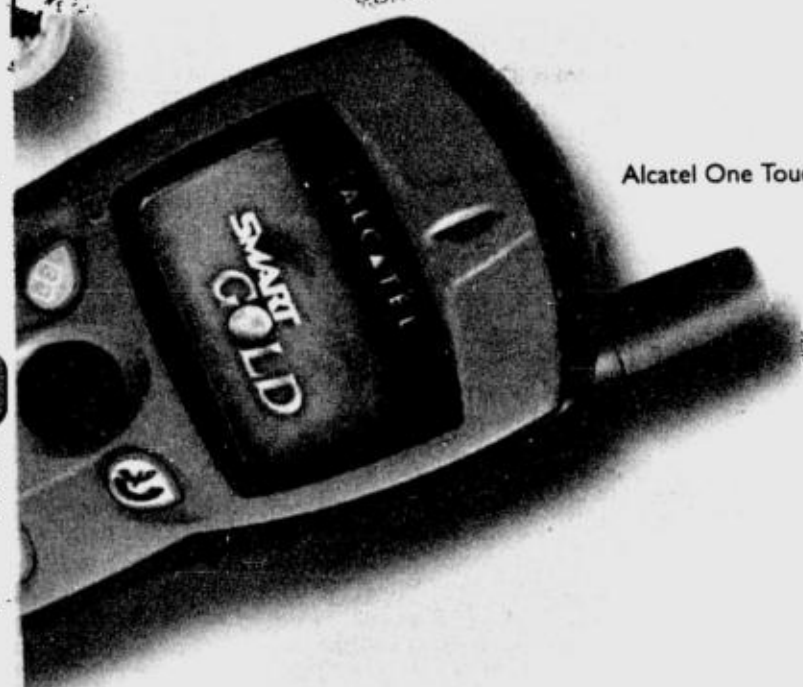
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Siemens C35i (WAP)	5,995	5,495	4,995	1,995	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	6,995	6,495	5,995	2,995	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	11,395	10,895	10,395	7,395	4,395
Nokia 8250	17,695	17,195	16,695	13,695	10,695
Siemens S40	18,495	17,995	17,495	14,495	11,495
Siemens SL45	23,495	22,995	22,495	19,495	17,495
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	39,750	38,750

Entrance fee is waived for all plans.

CORPORATE PACKAGE OPTION 1

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	Plan 600	Plan 1200	Plan 1800	Plan 3000	Plan 4000
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Siemens C35i (WAP)	4,495	1,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3310	4,895	2,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	5,645	3,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	9,795	6,165	3,495	FREE	FREE
Nokia 8250	16,295	12,995	10,995	8,995	5,995
Siemens S40	17,095	13,995	11,995	9,995	6,995
Siemens SL45	23,095	19,995	16,995	10,995	9,995
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	30,750	26,750

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Siemens C35i (WAP)	3,995	2,995	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3310	4,495	3,495	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	4,995	4,095	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	9,295	8,295	3,095	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 8250	15,795	14,795	10,995	8,995	FREE	FREE
Siemens S40	16,595	15,595	10,295	5,995	FREE	FREE
Siemens SL45	22,595	21,595	16,295	11,995	5,495	FREE
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,995	18,995

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MS. REYES AT #7368660

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Nurses (CGFNS holders / applicants) For posting in the U.S.A. for more information call Felicidad at tel. no. (78)326-7608 or write at No. 10 Bacarra St., Brgy. Osmena, Solano, Nueva Visaya 3709

PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **MANUEL R. BUENAVENTURA** has been extra-judicially settled by her heirs on Feb. 12, 2001 under Doc. #305, Page #62, Book #1, Series of 2001 before Atty. Ramon U. Ampil, O.C. (PDI-Feb. 17, 24 & Mar. 3, 2001)

Notice is given that the estate of the late **IRMINA BOLANOS TRINIDAD** was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. 247, Page 51, Book XVI, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Manuel Sabado of Makati (PDI-Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **CONCORDIA P. PORTACIO** has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 120; Page. 24; Book. No. 1 Series of 2000 Before Notary Public Arnulfo G. Canivel at Pasay City (PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **JOSE S. PLANES JR.** has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 126; Page. 26; Book No. 1 Series of 2000 Before Notary Public Arnulfo G. Canivel at Pasay City (PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2001)

Notice is given that the estate of late **CARMEN A. RIZADA** was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc #342 Page#58 Book III Series of 2001 of Notary Public Atty. Lino B. Soriano of Quezon City. (PDI-2/17, 24 & 3/3, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate of deceased person were executed by the heirs of the late **ROMEO CARREON** over Savings Account Nos. 0271-0648-29 with Land Bank of the Philippines, Bacalaran Branch and entered in the notarial register of Atty. Ledibrido S. Patalinghug as Doc. No. 251; Page No. 52; Book No. 70; Series of 2000 (PDI-Feb. 17, 24 & Mar. 3, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.
Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have resorted to thee (3x).
Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).
Thank you for Your Mercy toward me and being mine.
Thank You Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen
(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.) Pray 9 Hall Mary.

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.
Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have resorted to thee (3x).
Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).
Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.
Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.
(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

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East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446

E-mail: sssemal@info.com.ph • Web site: http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1. ROSITA P. ABALLE	Unknown	JESUS M. ABALLE JR. SS#09-0385929-3	June 15, 2000
2. AGNES C. AGITO	Bauan, Balangas	MARCELINO AGITO SS#04-0237537-5	December 5, 1990
3. TETENG AGUILAR	Unknown	DOMINGA AGUILAR SS#03-4863924-3	November 30, 2000
4. CELINA BALTAZAR	12 Villa Real, Novaliches, Q.C. Brgy. Alindia, Tarlac City	BONIFACIO BALTAZAR SS#03-9612191-0	November 7, 1994
5. ROWENA BAUTISTA	Unknown	EDGAR BAUTISTA SS#02-0470672-8	October 6, 2000
6. JULIA DECRITO	Unknown	PABLO BENITEZ SS#03-2750274-4	November 13, 2000
7. NENITA SOTEROHOS	Unknown	JESSIE CUNANAN SS#33-1261407-1	February 22, 2000
8. CLAUDIA OSMEÑA	Unisan Quezon Oriental Mindoro	ERNESTO DE GUZMAN SS#04-0190650-9	July 5, 2000
9. RUBEN ENRIQUEZ	16-D Doña Juana Subd., Rosario, Pasig, M.M.	HERMINIA ENRIQUEZ SS#03-4238370-0	July 27, 2000
10. ELISA AMEN	727 Bagumbayan, Sta. Mesa, Manila	JUANITO FELIN JR. SS#33-0638030-8	October 16, 1999
11. RONALDO LOPEZ	Unknown	MARICEL D. LIBERATO SS#03-6979767-2	January 26, 2000
12. JOVENCIA T. PAULINO	28 Ivory St., SSS Village, Marikina City	ELISEO M. PAULINO SS#03-0684587-1	September 26, 2000
13. FELICISIMA PAREJA	Unknown	EDUARDO PAREJA SS#03-3997340-0	October 29, 2000
14. EVANGELINE DELA CRUZ	Unknown	DANILO R. PATRIARCA JR. SS#03-6844774-5	November 1, 2000
15. LEONIDA PAYUMO	2745 Taft Avenue, Pasay City	JOSEFINO L. PAYUMO SS#03-1282549-4	September 16, 2000
16. SOFIA & NORMANDO JR. RIVAS	Unknown	NORMANDO RIVAS SS#03-0054131-1	November 27, 2000
17. EDNA BRAGA EDNALYN BRAGA EMMA BRAGA	Unknown	GENARO TABAQUERO SS#03-2271532-9	May 26, 2000
18. LAINE TOLEDO	Davao City	ARTURO P. TOLEDO SS#09-0102519-7	October 6, 2000

(PDI - Feb. 17, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001** issue.

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
(PQ0101RCC-001)

The GENCO-1 Regional Contracts Committee (RCC) is inviting contractors to prequalify and to bid for the SUPPLY OF LABOR, TOOLS/EQUIPMENT, PARTS/ CONSUMABLES AND SUPERVISION FOR TWO (2) YEARS MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF AIRCONDITIONING SYSTEM OF GENCO-1 BUILDINGS.

Application for prequalification is open to all Filipino contracting firms with valid license or business permit to undertake the works/services described herein.

Prequalification Forms shall be available for issuance starting February 19 to March 02, 2001 at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), 3rd Floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Applicants shall be issued Prequalification Form upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's DTI/SEC Certificate, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred (P200.00) per copy.

For purposes of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed:

- Submission of Prequalification Documents - March 08, 2001 - 8AM to 5PM
- Issuance of Bid Documents - April 17, 2001 - 8AM to 5PM
- Pre-bid Conference - April 20, 2001 - 10AM
- Submission and Opening of Bids - April 30, 2001 - 10AM

The NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason; waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. The NPC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Additional information will be furnished upon request. Address all communication/s to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) LORNA T. DY
Officer-in-Charge, RAFS
And Chairman, RCC

(PDI - Feb. 17, 21 & 27, 2001)



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all accredited computer maintenance agencies for the bidding of maintenance contract for various computers, printers and fax machines located in the different OSEC Offices.

All interested agencies must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting February 14 to 21, 2001 at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112 A, Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on February 28, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on March 9, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary
Vice-Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI-Feb. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

MANNING AGENCY to be established soon at Manila to recruit seamen for dry cargo and tanker vessels requires:

GENERAL MANAGER with good managerial skills and with good experience in related position.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT with adequate academic qualifications and experience in similar position.

DOCUMENTATION MANAGER/P.O.E.A. LIAISON with related experience and knowledge.

SECRETARY with excellent English and qualifications including computer word/excel etc.

Full C.V. with photo and reference letter to be mailed to:

P.O. BOX 13444, Ortigas Center Post Office
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone No: 743-83-01 to 23

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Philippines
Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project
Loan No. 3852-PH

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Phase III of the DOH Local Area Network Supporting the Logistics Management Information System
IFB No. WB-3852-PH(2)

1. The Department of Health has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the agreement resulting from this invitation for Bids.

2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Phase III of the DOH Local Area Network Supporting the Logistics Management Information System, which comprises of two lots as follows:

- Lot 1:
- (a) Interconnection of 12 buildings at the San Lazaro Compound to the DOH-LAN;
 - (b) Supply, delivery, installation and documentation of fiber optic backbone cabling and UTP in-house cabling;
 - (c) Supply, delivery, and configuration of three (3) File Servers and Network Management Software;
 - (d) Integration of existing DOH-LAN with Lot 1; and
 - (e) Training of some DOH personnel on the operation, configuration and administration of the system.

Lot 2: Includes the supply, delivery, installation, configuration and documentation of the following:

- (a) 14 units personal computers to be used as workstations;
- (b) 4 units Notebook Computers
- (c) 14 units Uninterruptible Power Supply, 600 VA
- (d) 3 units Uninterruptible Power Supply, 5 KV A
- (e) 14 units laser printers
- (f) 1 set MS SQL Server
- (g) 1 set Anti-virus Enterprise Solution
- (h) 1 set Network Security Solution
- (i) 1 set Proxy Server

3. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines which meet the following minimum qualification criteria:

- (a) Experience and track record on similar contracts:
(i) For Lot 1 — During the last three (3) years, the Bidder must have completed a contract involving the supply, delivery, installation and provision of technical support for Information System of similar functional, technical characteristics and of a comparable scale, including cost, as with the requirements of Lot 1.
(ii) For Lot 2 — Must have been in operation for the last two years, with line of business primarily in the supply and delivery of computers, software, related equipment and peripherals including provision of related technical services, of similar functional technical characteristics and of comparable scale as with the requirements of Lot 2.

- (b) Financial position:
(i) Must have an average current assets to current liabilities ratio of at least 1:1 over the last three years;
- (ii) Must have been generating a gross sales volume of not less than three (3) times the bid or combination of bids under consideration for award; and
- (iii) The Bidder should demonstrate that it has access to or has available liquid assets and lines of credit sufficient to meet the cash flow requirement of a bid or combination of bids under consideration for award, net of bidders commitments to other projects or contracts.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Procurement and Logistics Service
Building No. 26 San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
Telefax No. (632) 711-6712

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased starting February 19 until March 30, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five thousand Pesos (P5,000) or US\$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash or bank draft. Information including names of potential Bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before 10:00 a.m. on 4 April 2001. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two and a half (2.5) percent of the amount of bid. Any bid received by the Purchaser after the bid submission deadline will be rejected and returned unopened to the Bidder.

7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held at the following address at 10:00 a.m. on 20 March 2001.

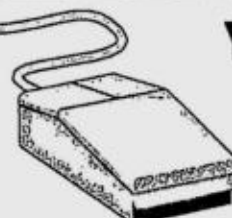
DOH Convention Hall
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address at 10:00 a.m. on 4 April 2001.

9. The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder, and (ii) that violations are considered fraud which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future World Bank-financed procurement.

(Sgd.) DR. ANTONIO S. LOPEZ, MD, MPH
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI-Feb. 17, 18 & 25, 2001)



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OBITUARIES

*"I am the resurrection and the life
 He who believes in Me will live, even though
 he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
 John 11: 25-26*

Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. EVELYN "TETE" SUA KHO

*Peacefully joined Our Lord on February 12, 2001
 at the age of 33.*

Her loving husband **Daniel**; daughter **Danielle "Issa" Isabel**; father and mother **Marcelino and Teresita Sua**; father and mother-in-law **Ang Guan Pat and Ang Eng Tee**; brothers, sister and in-laws, **Michael & Rosadel, Elaine and Warren and Warren and Jacqueline**

Brothers and sisters-in-law **Robert and Betty, Mary and Peter, Anna and Phillip, Jimmy and Annie, Susan and Jacinto, Henry and Lourdes, and Sjoberg and Josie**; nieces and nephews, other relatives, partner and associates and friends request the pious readers to pray for eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A-1 of La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

She will be laid to rest at Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite on Sunday, February 18, 2001 after the 6:00 a.m. Mass (Chapel A-1, Funeraria Paz).

*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life and I shall live
 in the house of the Lord forever."
 Psalm 23:6*

Our dearly beloved

EVA ESCALANTE BENEDICTO

*Peacefully joined her Creator on February 14, 2001
 at the age of 81.*

Her loving husband **Leopoldo (†)**; children **Tarzan and Charrie, Jane, Jong and Cynthia, Baby and Julie, Leo (†), Boboy, Jesse and May, Tessie and Dino, Anthony, Gerry and Sheila, Gertie and Ricky**; grandchildren, great grandchild, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at the Alisbo Main Chapel in Mandalagan, Bacolod City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 21, 2001 at the Bacolod Memorial Park after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Carmelite Monastery.

ANTONIO B. FERNANDO, SR.

of Balanga, Bataan and Malabon,
 Metro Manila
 (Ret. Central Bank Officer)

February 14, 1924 - February 15, 2001

His bereaved wife **Rosalina Banzon**; children and in-laws **Atty. Antonio, Jr. and Sally, Tes and Butch Encina, Mon and Marina, Danny, Art and Marivic**; grandchildren **Jan, Janel, Raymark, Olan, Ron, Hanna and Alvin**; relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 18, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

The Management and Staff of the

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condole with the family of

IBRA M. ALONTO

(of Cagayan de Oro)

Assistant Vice President-CARAGA Region

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
 on February 15, 2001 at the age of 43.*

We join her bereaved family, wife, **Moonyeen** and children: **Juebair and Maharlika**; relatives and friends in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Our Dearly Loved

Engr. ERNESTO R. BAUTISTA

*Peacefully joined his Creator on February 14, 2001
 at the age of 53.*

His loving wife **Onding**, children **Ryan, Gino, Gerald and Ana Corina**, brothers, sisters, in-laws, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

The remains will be transferred to Lian, Batangas on Sunday, 18 February 2001 at 4:00 a.m.

Interment will be on Thursday, 22 February 2001 at the Lian Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. John the Baptist Church.

Our dearly beloved Col. Sergio S. Danganan, M.D.

*Ret. US Army
 of Manila, Pampanga and San Diego, California*

*Peacefully joined our Lord on February 12, 2001
 at the age of 75.*

His loving wife **Weweng Maniquis**; children **Ramon, Barbara, Marie, Michael**; together with the grandchildren, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

His remains lie in state at the El Camino Royal San Diego, California.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 17, 2001.

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Col. DOMINGO G. GABITAN

(PA Ret.)

*Sta. Magdalena, Sorsogon
 Peacefully joined our Creator
 on February 15, 2001.*

His remains lie in state at the Camp Mortuary, Camp Aguinaldo, QC. Interment will be on February 24, 2001, 12:00 noon at Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

**"From
 darkness
 let the
 light
 shine!"**

Genesis 1:3

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 3:8



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Soft drinks add to childhood obesity

LONDON—The sugary soft drinks so popular with children are contributing to a growing population of obese youngsters and teenagers, American researchers said.

Instead of drinking milk, water and natural fruit juices which are healthier and more nutritious, children are consuming more sweetened beverages and getting fatter.

"We found that for every additional serving per day of soft drink consumed, the risk of becoming obese increased by about 50 percent," David Ludwig of the Children's Hospital in Boston told Reuters.

"This relation between soft drinks and obesity remained even after taking into account the effects of physical activity levels and other food consumed," he added.

Because the drinks are so tasty and less filling than food, the children do not feel full or realize how many calories they are consuming.

The added weight they are gaining poses a real health risk because childhood obesity leads to adult obesity and chronic health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.

First long-term study

In a study published in The Lancet medical journal, Ludwig and his colleagues reported the results



of the first long-term study into the impact of beverages like sugar-sweetened soda, fruit drinks, sweetened ice tea, Kool-Aid and Hawaiian Punch on children's body weight.

They studied 548 youngsters

with an average age of about 11 from schools in four communities in Massachusetts for two years.

The researchers monitored how much sweet drinks the children consumed and the changes in their body mass index

(BMI), a standard method used to measure body fat.

"The average teenager is getting 15 to 20 teaspoons a day of added sugar from soft drinks alone. Consumption rates among children have doubled in the last decade," said Ludwig, the director of the Optimal Weight for Life Program at the hospital.

Ludwig and his colleagues found that adolescent boys were the biggest consumers of soft drink. Each additional sweet drink consumed daily equated to a 60 percent increase in BMI and obesity risk.

During the study, the researchers found 57 percent of the children had increased their daily intake of soft drinks and more than half of them by nearly a full serving each day.

Ludwig stressed that more studies will be needed to confirm the results but he added: "The study does suggest that public health efforts aimed at limiting consumption of soft drinks in children may help prevent and treat obesity."

Sugary drinks are not the only cause of the alarming rise in childhood obesity. Studies have shown that children are also less active and eat diets higher in fat than before.

Reuters

MMR vaccine safe, declares WHO

IN THE WAKE of reports questioning the efficacy of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, the World Health Organization has issued a statement still endorsing its use to prevent deadly childhood diseases.

"WHO strongly endorses the use of MMR vaccine on the grounds of its convincing record of safety and efficacy... There has been no new scientific evidence that would suggest impaired safety of MMR. On the contrary, all results from vaccine trials published reaffirm the high safety and efficacy of MMR vaccine," the statement said.

Recent concerns regarding the MMR vaccine were raised following the publication of an article in the Jan. 29 issue of the Adverse Drug Reaction and Toxicological Reviews. The article, written by Doctors A. Wakefield and S.M. Montgomery, suggested that the MMR vaccines were licensed prematurely.

No new data

Wakefield had previously published articles describing the reputed association between measles infection, measles vaccine and Crohn's Disease and autism. While his new article reviewed the overall situation and his earlier work, it did not provide any new data.

WHO noted that other scientists have not been able to reproduce the results claimed by Wakefield and his team regarding measles virus in the gut. His observations regarding the onset of autism following the administration of MMR vaccine do not meet the scientific criteria required to suggest that the vaccine is the cause.

WHO pointed out that measles is a major killer of children in developing countries, accounting for approximately 875,000 deaths each year. Recent outbreaks in industrialized countries have highlighted the importance of improving measles immunization coverage throughout the world.

Congenital rubella syndrome is an important cause of deafness, blindness and mental retardation. It is estimated that more than 100,000 cases of congenital rubella syndrome occur each year worldwide.

Mumps is an acute infectious disease. Although the disease is mild, up to 10 percent of patients can develop aseptic meningitis. A less common but more serious complication is encephalitis, which can result in death or disability.

These three communicable diseases could be easily prevented through immunization, WHO stressed.

CT scans could cause cancer in kids

WASHINGTON—Children who get CT scans, a kind of X-ray that produces a three-dimensional image of the body, may be getting overdoses of radiation and are at risk of developing cancer.

A team of researchers from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center led by Dr. Lane Donnelly found that some children who get computed tomography (CT) scans are getting doses at least five times greater than necessary.

A separate team of researchers from Columbia University in New York led by Dr. David Brenner warned that up to 500 children a year in the United States alone could die from cancer because of it.

X-rays and similar forms of radiation can cause cancer.

"The larger doses and increased lifetime radiation risks in children produce a sharp increase, relative to adults, in estimated risk from CT," Brenner wrote in the February edition of the American Journal of Roentgenology.

"In the United States, of approximately 600,000 abdominal and head CT examinations annually performed in children under the age of 15 years, a rough estimate is that 500 of these individuals might ultimately die from cancer attributable to the CT radiation."

Less radiation

The researchers said radiologists could turn down the X-rays without losing quality. This will expose

children to less potentially cancer-causing radiation.

"CT is often a necessary part of the evaluation of children with suspected illness," Donnelly, whose study is published in the same journal, said in a statement.

"The benefit from the information obtained by the CT greatly outweighs the radiation risk. However... it's not only imperative to make an accurate diagnosis, but also to strive to make the risks as minimal as possible."

CT is a radiologist's first choice in diagnosing children with abdominal pain, suspected appendicitis, abdominal trauma, a suspected mass, or complicated pneumonias.

It is used in about 4 percent of medical X-ray examinations, but it contributes to an estimated 40 percent of the total radiation dose to the population.

This is especially true in children because all the guidelines on how much radiation to use are based on studies conducted on adults, said Dr. Kathleen Emery, a staff radiologist who worked on the study.

"It began to bother us that we used parameters based on adult studies," she said. "Unlike general radiography, there is no penalty for using a higher dose of radiation, whereas in regular X-rays, too high a dose would result in a black picture."

Reuters

Philippine population to remain young

YOUNG people will continue to constitute the largest proportion of the country's population in the years to come, the Commission on Population said.

This poses a challenge for government to keep pace with the increasing demand for vital services, with health and education—to name just two—as the most urgent needs of young people, said Popcom executive director Tomas M. Osias.

"Having a young population structure means we have greater work to do. But we need not worry as long as we continue to instill in young people the importance of changing the conditions in which they behave, attain education, have a lifestyle and think of

forming unions or marriages," Osias said.

More than 38 percent of the population today consists of young people below 15 years. Of this young population, 23 percent are adolescents aged 10-19 and 20 percent are in the ages 15-24. About 60 percent of Filipinos are under 24.

The 15-24 age group grows at an average of 2.14 percent annually, which means the population is expected to remain young for many years and will continue to grow even after the country has attained replacement level, or an ideal number of two children per couple.

Osias said it is important for the young to be educated in reproductive health and responsible sexuality because

this will have a significant impact in their adult lives and their contribution to society.

Early education

He said it is important that adolescents are educated early in life because they are naturally curious in experimenting with things and lifestyles, such as sex and drugs.

"There are many problems of adults today that arose from their improper behavior when they were adolescents," Osias said. "Decisions they make now will have a tremendous effect in their growing up years."

Young people who are not provided with the right information to practice the right behavior are at risk of having reproductive health problems, among

them unplanned pregnancies, irresponsible sexual relations, sexually-transmitted diseases, sexual abuse and abortion, he said.

Studies have established that Filipinos, on the average start engaging in sex at the age of 18.

In 1995, a national survey found that 1.8 million boys and girls, or 18 percent of the total youth population had engaged in sex and 94 percent of them admitted that they were unprepared to become parents if their sexual activity would lead to pregnancy.

"Undoubtedly, there is a strong need for quality, accessible and adolescent-friendly information on reproductive health," Osias said.

SciSCOPE

Lay forum on hypertension

THE DEPARTMENT of Health "Sentrong Sigla," the Philippine Heart Association and Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc. will hold a lay forum on hypertension on Feb. 24, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Philamlife Theater, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila. Dubbed "Yosi, Alta Presyon, Kolesterol (YAK Iwasan)," the forum aims to increase public awareness on the hazards of smoking and the dangers of hypertension and high cholesterol. Noted cardiologists Esperanza Cabral and Rosario Sevilla as well as food and nutrition specialist Celeste Tanchoco will be the speakers. There will be free blood pressure and cholesterol screening immediately after the lecture. For free registration and inquiries, please call up Armie or Michelle at 818-5331 or 814-2272.

Pfizer joins Lakad Puso 2001

THE PHILIPPINE Heart Association together with the Department of Health recently held "Lakad Puso 2001" for Filipinos. It is one of the major activities organized to help promote walking as one of the best forms of exercise to maintain good cardiovascular health. Participants from different schools and organizations walked from the East Avenue, North Avenue to the Quezon Memorial Circle. CPR demonstration and mini-olympics were also conducted for children and adults after the walk.

The case of the irritable bowel movement

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, M.D.

JOJO, a 30-year-old high school teacher, makes it a point to have a thin roll of tissue or toilet paper in his pocket. He never leaves home without it. For as long as he can remember, he has been having on-and-off colicky abdominal pains which in most instances would be relieved when he moves his bowels.

Jojo's pattern of bowel habits has alternated from frequent bouts of diarrhea to occasional episodes of constipation. He also has abdominal distention with an uncomfortable bloating sensation, nausea, mucus in the stool, and a sensation of incomplete evacuation after defecation. Not infrequently, he experiences headaches, body malaise and a feeling of exhaustion. Jojo's father and a sister also have the same symptoms he has.

"You have an Irritable Bowel Syndrome or IBS," said the young gastroenterologist Jojo consulted. "IBS is also known as a spastic colon and is a motility disorder involving the entire stomach and intestines, causing recurring upper and lower gastrointestinal symptoms exactly the same ones you're experiencing."

"Where did I get it, doc? Is it due to the food I eat?" Jojo asked.

"Partly, yes. But the exact cause of IBS is not known. No anatomic cause has been shown, but emotional factors or stress, diet and drugs may aggravate or trigger its symptoms. It may be associated with anxiety disorders, particularly panic and depressive disorders. Some patients with IBS tend to express emotional conflict as a gastrointestinal disorder. Hence, it is also called as a psychosomatic disorder."

Clinical types

"Symptom-wise," the doctor continued, "there are two major clinical types. In constipation-predominant IBS, constipation is common, but bowel habits vary. There is pain in at least one area of the big intestines, associated with periodic constipation, alternating with a normal stool frequency and occasional loose bowel movements. The pain is colicky, comes in bouts, but may also be a continuous dull ache. It may be relieved by bowel movement."

"The other type is a diarrhea-predominant IBS, characterized by precipitous diarrhea that occurs immediately on rising, or during or immediately after eating. Symptoms while asleep are generally unusual. Pain, bloating and rectal urgency are common, and incontinence may also be experienced. In some



instances, the clinical manifestation may be a combination of these two types."

IBS diagnosis

"Are you sure of your diagnosis, doc?"

"We'll have to do routine diagnostic tests to rule out other diseases," the doctor replied, "but the diagnosis of IBS is usually straightforward based on characteristic bowel patterns, time and character of pain, in a patient who appears to have a strong psychological component."

"And that's me, doc!" Jojo readily admitted.

Jojo took a complete day off from his work to have his diagnostic work-up done. His stools were examined to check for occult blood, ova and parasites. He underwent proctosigmoidoscopy wherein a flexible fiber optic instrument was inserted through his anus to visualize the colonic mucosa and rule out tumors or colonic infection. This was followed by a barium enema, an X-ray examination to have a more thorough visualization of the big intestines. Jojo heaved a big sigh of relief when his doctor told him

that all his tests were normal.

"That's usually the case in IBS," the doctor explained, "but the important thing is that we've ruled out the more serious causes such as colonic tumors or chronic infections."

Treatment

"How then do you treat an IBS case like me?" Jojo eagerly asked his doctor.

"Therapy is supportive and palliative. And the most important part of treatment is your part. You have to learn to manage your stress. Regular physical activity and exercise help relieve stress and assist in bowel function, particularly in patients who present with constipation. The more serious types of psychological stress and anxiety may need therapy with a psychiatrist."

"How about my diet, doc?"

"In general, a normal diet should be followed with some modification. Avoiding beans, cabbage and other foods containing fermentable carbohydrates will help reduce abdominal distention and flatulence. Intake of milk and dairy products should also be lessened especially in those with lactose intolerance. As a rule, a low-fat, high-protein and high-fiber diet with increased fluid intake is recommended."

Drug relief

"Can drugs relieve my symptoms?"

"Drugs are used only for palliative or symptomatic relief. Anticholinergic or antispasmodic drugs like hyoscyamine may be taken before meals. For frequent and bothersome diarrhea, diphenoxylate or loperamide may be taken also before meals but its chronic use is discouraged because tolerance usually develops. Antidepressants such as imipramine and amitriptyline may also help IBS patients by down-regulating the activity of nerves coming from the intestines, hence relieving the spasm and abdominal pain."

Jojo still carries his neatly folded roll of toilet paper wherever he goes, but he is now more relaxed since he understands fully well his medical condition. His symptoms still come and go but definitely less bothersome than what he had before. He has learned to live with them. It's all in a day's work.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some data have been changed to cover the identity of the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Please send comments or questions to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph.)

Olympic record-holder promotes ginger extract

CARL Lewis, regarded by many as one of the world's greatest athlete, is still in very good shape and is as active as when he started his career in 1983 when he was 22, thanks to a regimen of diet, exercise and ginger extract.

Lewis holds the record for the most number of Olympic gold medals won by one individual. He excelled in the field of sprint and long jump, winning nine Olympic golds, the last one at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics when he was 35.

Now 39, Lewis no longer plays competitively but is still active, keeping himself in shape by working out in his gym, running several miles a week and swimming regularly.

In the course of his outstanding career in competitive sports, he sometimes experienced joint discomforts in the knees and back during training.

"Every competition meant at least a hundred practice jumps—pounding down the runup, forcing myself off the board and on to the pit. When you are young, you don't think your training is going to damage your body," Lewis said.

Being an athlete makes one more prone to joint and limb afflictions, Lewis attested.

"I did have soreness. Throughout my career, I had injuries but they were minimal. If you're an athlete, you're gonna have pain, soreness."

For his aches and pains, Lewis does not take anything that is not natural.

"I heard about Zinaxin Rapid from my massage therapist, who was giving



LEWIS

me a lot of help. I was interested because it was a natural product made from ginger and had no side effects. I felt dramatically better after taking Zinaxin Rapid and I have been taking it regularly since then. I feel great and have absolutely no problem now," Lewis said.

The key to Zinaxin Rapid is called EVEXT 77, which is a standardized extract of two types of ginger: *Zingiber officinale roscoe* and *Alpinia galanga*.

Lewis now lives in Houston, Texas, and is involved in sports in a different way. He encourages children to participate in active sports. He is ready to embark on a second career—in acting—and has been busy traveling to Hollywood for screen tests.

Managing hypertension

IF you have high blood pressure, do not lose heart. There is still good news: together with your doctor, you can control hypertension. It won't be easy—you'll have to turn some bad habits into more healthful ones. Here are some tips from United Laboratories Inc.:

- Accept that you've got a problem—high blood pressure.
- Keep in mind that increased weight contributes to blood pressure elevation. Weight loss lowers blood pressure, not in everybody, but in many people.
- Along with weight loss, exercise provides additional benefits for those with high blood pressure. It's best to check with your doctor before beginning any exercise program.
- Check your blood pressure regularly.
- Cultivate a taste for less-salty foods.
- Restrict alcohol consumption to one drink (1.5 ounces of hard liquor, 4 ounces of wine, or 12 ounces of beer) per day.
- Cigarette smoking is taboo for hypertensives. Nicotine not only causes blood pressure to rise, it also

dramatically increases the blood's propensity to clot. Blood clots in the arteries leading to the heart can cause a heart attack while blood clots in the artery leading to the brain may cause a stroke.

• Some chronically stressed-out individuals release a lot of adrenaline into their systems. That rush of hormone can constrict the arterioles (tiny blood vessels), causing them to go into spasm. It is difficult for the heart to push blood through constricted arterioles. The effect is higher blood pressure. Learning to relax will be beneficial.

• Take your blood pressure medicine regularly. The biggest danger with hypertension is that it is usually without symptoms until its final stages, where it becomes fatal.

Advances in medicine are much awaited because they help us combat varied medical problems. One such discovery is the Imidapril HCl, an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor. It is an effective, safe and once-a-day antihypertensive. Compared to other ACE inhibitors, Imidapril HCl has a lower incidence of cough.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Filipinos have right to ask doctors, pharmacists, says drug policy

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

SICK and tired of bitchy physicians who get angry when you ask them to be more specific with their curt advice about side effects or contraindications of medicines prescribed? Tired of lazy pharmacists who refuse to give you more information on cheaper alternative drugs?

The Philippine National Drug Policy Program released Wednesday to the media two documents that would assert Filipino patients' statement of rights. The documents, in English and Tagalog versions, include the patient's rights as a subject in a clinical trial, what the patient should ask his or her doctor and what a consumer should ask pharmacists if a patient is prescribed a medicine.

PNDPP program manager Kenneth Hartigan Go, MD, disclosed that the intention of the manual is to encourage

the public to assert its right to information, the right to ask questions, the right to think and make up one's mind.

"The patient should not be afraid to ask questions. It's not meant to embarrass the medical profession or the drugs or outlets, it's about time that those who make decisions for prescribing drugs, the people who sell drugs in the drug outlets, and the consumers have some handle," said Go.

Possible side effects

Go told the INQUIRER that not all doctors spend time to explain to a patient what the possible side effects of a medicine are, drug interactions, the best time to take medications, and actions to take if the drug prescribed is not working. Other situations, such as a patient suffering from adverse drug reactions and choices in pricing of drugs need doctors' and pharmacists' advice, he said.

Go lamented drug advertisements

promoting OTC drugs often don't mention adverse effects. "And these are drugs that are sold over the counter without prescriptions. Still they don't indicate what the bad things are, they only say the good things," said Go.

"The government should come up with a policy to tell drug firms that this is not a way to do things anymore. If you want to write the good things, you are also mandated to write the bad things. They get away with so many things," he said.

Asked about the parallel importation case, Go replied that he is not at liberty to divulge information as the case is now under trial.

Contents

The first section of the document is the patient's right as a subject of a clinical trial. Go reported that there are many "unwitting" subjects of clinical trials funded by drug companies that, in effect,

add to the cost of medicine.

"Some of these trials are not actual trials but marketing strategies to push a product into the market in the guise of a clinical trial. So this is a way to empower the patients to challenge his or her doctor and ask 'Am I a guinea pig or part of a trial?' And if the patient is part of a trial, the patient should demand that he needs to know what are the issues involved," he said.

The second section includes the questions patients need to ask a doctor or a pharmacist if they are prescribed a medicine. The third section is about what questions to ask the pharmacists such as generics, and the alternatives to the medicines.

Guide questions are also available for cancer patients, patients about to undergo surgery, senior citizens and mothers on what to ask their child's doctors.

BY QUEENA N. LEE-CHUA

TEXTING has become ubiquitous in our society today. It has proven indispensable for certain professions, such as doctors and other people who need to be contacted during an emergency.

Yet it seems as if the ones who indulge in this the most are the ones who need it least—teenagers who text or page each other for no better reason than to say hello. The Ateneo de Manila University has a policy for students to turn off their cell phones and pagers during class, and I wish this can also hold for other public places, such as movie houses and churches.

What effects does texting have on learning? Here is a query from M. A. Depalco [mariaangel@angelfire.com].

I am a fourth year BA student of Saint Louis College, San Fernando City, La Union. Whenever I have time, I always make it a point to read your column in the INQUIRER. Since I am a senior, I am currently undertaking a study titled "Impact of Alpha-Numeric Paging on the Academic Performance of Students" as a prerequisite before graduation. However, I am encountering problems regarding my review of related literature because it seems that there is no written material which I can refer to, particularly dealing with the probable effects of texting on the academic performance of students. (My study is novel.) I wish you can help me by giving me a list of books, pamphlets, magazines and websites which I can refer to for my study (even if they are only one). I know you have links to vast sources of information.

First, before you decide on a project, you have to do your literature review. If you don't find any sources of information, then that means that you probably have to think of another project, even if you have your heart set on this one. Second, you should consult your adviser (that's what he/she is for) regarding what to do in this case. Your adviser will decide whether you can go on with the project (without any research backing) or most likely, do a new one. That being said, I am amazed to find there are still no published refereed materials (in psychology or education journals) on the effects of texting on learning. There have been some opinion articles on the effects of texting on student achievement (mostly negative opinions), but you cannot use them as the basis for your research.

But there are some sites you can look at—and I cannot give them to you here. I have a strict policy of not doing students' work for them. What I can tell you is that if you log on to a search engine (any of the popular ones will do), you will find some sites on texting and paging (you can always look under cell phone use). So my best advice to you is—do not waste time looking for printed sources, but search the Net instead. However, make sure that the site is a valid one (not something done on a whim by someone who wants to

sell you something or who has an ax to grind against education).

If your adviser will permit, why don't you do an empirical study? Gather your own data through surveys and interviews, and write about that. Good luck.

By the way, if any reader has any relevant information on studies about this topic, please send them to me or directly to Ms. Depalco in her e-mail.

G. Gonzales [gersamg@hotmail.com] wants to learn more math. Here is his letter:

I am one of the numerous readers who follow your column. You have written about why students fear or dislike mathematics many times. I could say that I belong to such a group of individuals, who for some reason, genetic or otherwise, just barely pass subjects in college that involve computations.

By some twist of fate and my own decision, I am currently pursuing graduate studies. I don't want to just get a passing mark in subjects involving quantification and calculation so I review mathematics books on my own, but find most of the titles in our library too advanced or too elementary. Can you recommend titles of textbooks in the areas of basic mathematics, algebra, and basic calculus?

If you have really understood what I have been saying about fear of math, then you cannot say that "genetic" reasons can even be the cause of your failures. I venture to say it is disinterest and lack of motivation, coupled with lack of practice, which has made your college math an unfulfilling experience.

I commend you for giving yourself a second chance now, at least where math is concerned. What concerns me is that you find some books too advanced, and others too basic. Come on—with the number of books in the library, don't tell me you cannot find one that is just right for you! That being said, I cannot offhand recommend textbooks to you because I don't know your level of math understanding and knowledge. Also, you want books on three disparate subjects—basic math is arithmetic, which is grade school stuff, algebra is for high school and calculus for college. You cannot do all of them at once, of course, my suggestion is to make sure you understand arithmetic very well (you may think you do, but many people score low on GMAT and GRE because they cannot deal with fractions and decimals). Then advance to algebra, and finally to calculus. If you really want good textbooks, then take a look at the Schaum's Outline Series (available in bookstores, and I dare say, in your library). They have books on the three fields you need, plus others besides (like statistics). Good luck, and please don't give up at the first sign of difficulty.

Send your questions to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph.

Experts call for early management of high blood pressure

BY THE CHARTER STAFF

THE PREVALENCE of high blood pressure is increasing to epidemic proportions and local experts are getting alarmed. Last year alone, more than 150,000 Filipinos died from hypertensive cardiovascular diseases and related disorders.

Dr. Ramon Abarquez Jr., professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and former president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH), lamented that doctors employ a reactive rather than a proactive management to hypertension.

"Hypertension is often diagnosed on a case-to-case basis with a limited detection and control rate," Abarquez said. "Primordial prevention identifies hypertension risk-prone cases at an early stage before complications set in."

A proactive "womb-to-tomb" strategy is being proposed by the PSH to treat and control high blood pressure and its various complications.

High-prone cases

The PSH identified the following as risk-prone cases: high-salt eaters, passive or active smokers, obese individuals, those who had low birth weight and children of smoking and malnourished mothers.

The familial or hereditary predisposition to develop high blood pressure is well known. The PSH presented a paper showing data that first-degree family members have a two-fold risk of developing hypertension before the age of 40. Maternal developmental factors have also been implicated, showing that mothers who smoke or who are malnourished during pregnancy are likely



to deliver babies who will develop high blood pressure when they grow up.

A scientific longitudinal study has also shown an inverse relationship between birth weight and blood pressure during childhood. This is known as the "Barker Hypothesis" which states that a birth-placental mismatch which leads to a low birth weight can be predictive of future hypertension.

The PSH paper also cited the work of Professors N. Fuenmayor and E. Moreira published in the American Journal of Hypertension showing that salt intake particularly in salt-sensitive individuals not only elevates the blood pressure but may also be associated with insulin resistance that may lead to or aggravate existing diabetes or elevated blood sugar levels.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey in the United States has also shown that high salt intake is independently associated with increased risk of cardiovascular diseases and deaths from all causes. The PSH believes that these data are worth noting considering the preponderance of fast or "instant" food preparations such as noodles with

a high salt content.

Dr. Gregorio Patasil, PSH president, said that the complex problem of hypertension is aggravated by limited and non-aggressive blood pressure control. "We should start early in treating hypertension before signs of target-organ involvement such as heart enlargement and impaired kidney function develop," he advised.

Thorough evaluation

The PSH recommended a thorough evaluation of hypertensive patients because high blood pressure is usually present together with other risk factors. These associated factors are diabetes, high cholesterol levels and obesity. The PSH said these conditions should be equally aggressively managed.

The PSH showed epidemiologic data that the risk of heart disease is three times for obese individuals and twice for smokers. Sedentary individuals are also at higher risk than those who exercise regularly.

"There is a 30 percent risk reduction with a 20-minute light to moderate exercise daily," Abarquez said.

He added that trials have shown that

a modest salt restriction and a weight reduction of 10 lb can significantly reduce the blood pressure. "Diet, exercise, weight reduction if obese, stress management and quitting smoking are still the mainstay of treatment in hypertension," Abarquez said.

Lifestyle modification

According to the PSH paper, lifestyle modification requires a very dedicated and intensive doctor-patient relationship. The physician or healthcare giver has to spend enough time with the patient to earn his trust and to ensure that his advice would be strictly followed.

The PSH paper said counseling should be extended to the other members of the family of the patient since the entire family may be risk-prone.

The PSH also recommended community-based screening, counseling and education programs, including mass media education, adult education classes, work site intervention, home correspondence and school-based, restaurant or supermarket programs. Although the PSH admitted that limited benefits might be obtained in some areas, a sustained program is likely to make a significant difference in the long term to reduce the prevalence of hypertension and its related complications.

(Charter is the acronym for Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management. It is a non-stock, nonprofit research foundation which evaluates the impact of risk factors and intervention, particularly lifestyle modification, on atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases. It is based at the Manila Sanitarium & Hospital.)

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Saturday **SPECIAL**

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND SICAM, Associate Editor

Two key ingredients remain
in 'Hannibal'

Hunch

"I got the message that she wasn't going to do it," he says. "I had a hunch that she wouldn't. I don't know Jodie that well, but she has an integrity about her life and whatever decision was made I'm sure was made for the best reason. My only reaction was, 'Oh, Oklahoma.' So I let the others worry about it."

Usually, sequels to big moneymakers stink.

HOPKINS. Back for another feast.

TWO/P. C2

BY MARK KENNEDY

NEW YORK—Imagine that your favorite restaurant has reopened under new management. The cuisine is different, the hostess unfamiliar and the decor a little exotic.

Favorite waiter

You miss the old place, until you notice that the same old chef is behind the stove, simmering and grilling, and your favorite waiter ambles over with a crooked smile.

Now it might seem rude to flee.

In a similar way, the producers of "Hannibal" also hope you'll stay.

Their sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs" has a new director, screenwriter and female lead, but they hope you'll sample the fare nonetheless.

This time, director Jonathan Demme, screenwriter Ted Tally and Jodie Foster are out. Replacing them are director Ridley Scott, screenwriters Steven Zaillian and David Mamet, and Julianne Moore as FBI agent Clarice Starling.

But two key ingredients remain: Thomas Harris, who provided a new menu with his best-selling follow-up novel, and Anthony Hopkins, who's back for another feast as the urbane cannibal, Dr. Hannibal Lecter.

"I know the expectations of the audience," says Hopkins, who won the 1991 best-actor Academy Award for playing Lecter and sent theatergoers into the night making fava bean and Chianti jokes.

Conscious decision

"I did make a conscious decision not to repeat the same tricks of 'The Silence of the Lambs'—to introduce bits and pieces of his character, but not to go on playing the same old, 'Ahhh, Clarice ...'" he says, momentarily slipping into character.

Moore, on the other hand, faced a different dilemma. Her character had already been broken in by another actress who had done such a good job that she'd also been rewarded with an Oscar.

"My biggest concern always, whenever I take any kind of role, is am I going to be able to do the part justice?" Moore says. "That was particularly the case with this, because it was played to perfection by Jodie Foster."

Two others who weren't in the original also grabbed meaty parts: Gary Oldman, as a former victim of Lecter's, and Ray Liotta, who plays Starling's boss.

Liotta got the job after buttonholing the director outside a Los Angeles gym.

"To work with Anthony Hopkins playing this part is like working with Martin Scorsese doing a Mafia movie," says Liotta, who starred in Scorsese's mobster masterpiece "Goodfellas." "It's their forte. What can be better than that?"

Bureaucracy

The new \$80 million movie begins 10 years after Starling and Lecter last battled wits. He's laying low in Italy, while she is scouring on the FBI and its bureaucracy.

But as the title implies, this time there can be no doubt who the real star is, says Dino De Laurentiis, who produced the film with his wife, Martha, and Scott. The monster is front and center.

"When people ask me, 'Dino, this is the sequel of 'The Silence of the Lambs'—I say, 'You're wrong!' This has nothing to do with 'The Silence of the Lambs,' except for the same character."

The De Laurentiises owned the screen rights to Harris' work and would fly to Miami every few months to nudge Harris along as he wrote "Hannibal."

Another six months, he would tell them. Years would pass.

Finally, in 1999, Harris called. "Dino, I did it!"

Only one sticking point remained: the ending. Apparently only Harris liked the idea of Starling and Lecter, once wary foes, now falling in love and sharing a decidedly non-vegetarian meal.

With Harris' permission, the movie's ending was altered. The producers then scrambled to get a new team together as defections mounted. Yet even without Foster, Hopkins was happy to reprise his role.

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HANNIBAL Lecter (Hopkins) terrorizes Clarice Starling (Moore).

Two key . . . (From page C1)

But even skeptics can point to a few that surpassed their originals. (Think of "The Godfather Part II," "Aliens," and "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan.")

And, to be completely accurate, "Hannibal" isn't the second film to feature Lecter chewing up the scenery: That's "The Silence of the Lambs." "Hannibal" actually made his debut in Michael Mann's 1986 "Manhunter," played by Brian Cox. Such technicalities didn't make it any easier for Moore, the Oscar-nominated actress of "The End of the Affair" and "Boogie Nights." Could she play Starling, the feisty West Virginian "not more than one generation from poor white trash"? "You just have to apply yourself and try to do your best," Moore says. "All I can do is do my job, which is start from ground zero and figure out where to go with it, like any other movie."

Not a remake

"It's not like we did a remake of 'The Silence of the Lambs' and Ridley and I stepped into it," she adds.

"I think because it's been 10 years, I didn't feel like it was No. 1 and No. 2. I think we felt they were very separate movies."

Fans tend to agree.

Chris Stiles, a 21-year-old student in Reseda, California, has hungrily followed developments along with other self-described Lecterphiles.

Rollercoaster ride

"I'm guessing the changes will just make the movie more of a rollercoaster ride," says Stiles, who runs a Web site called Hannibal's Palace. "I'm a fan but this movie comes up a lot, at work and school and stuff. People want to see it."

Moore thinks she knows why—and it isn't to watch her character.

"For one reason or another, Lecter has resonated with the public. It may have less to do with the actor and this character than with this character and the public," she says.

"Actors are there for the audience to project their self onto the screen. Audiences don't go to see actors—they go to see themselves. And he's the monster we wish we could be." AP

'Hannibal' chews up box office records

By DAVID GERMAIN

LOS ANGELES—Hannibal Lecter made mincemeat of the competition—and the record book.

Colossal

The grisly "Hannibal," sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs," debuted with a colossal \$58 million in its first three days. It grossed more than the next 15 movies combined, according to industry estimates Sunday last week, and easily beat the \$34.7 million record for a February opening set by "Scream 3" last year.

Only two other movies, "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" and "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace," grossed more in their first three-day weekends. "Hannibal" also had the best opening ever for an R-rated movie, topping the \$42.3 million debut of "Scary Movie" last summer.

"Hannibal" was "the most widely anticipated follow-up since 'Phantom Menace,'" and it's the return of one of the greatest cinematic characters of all time," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which tracks the box office. "It proved to be an irresistible combina-

tion to moviegoers."

Second place

"The Wedding Planner," No. 1 for the previous two weekends, slipped to second place with \$7.8 million.

The weekend's only other big premiere was the comedy "Saving Silverman," which opened in third place with \$7.4 million.

The martial arts epic "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" took in \$5.1 million and topped \$60 million over the weekend to pass "Life Is Beautiful" as the domestic box-office champ among foreign-language films.

The overall box office rose again, with the top 12 movies grossing \$107.6 million, up 43 percent compared with the same weekend in 2000. The box office has increased every weekend this year.

Playing in 3,230 theaters, "Hannibal" averaged a stellar \$17,957 per cinema, compared with a \$3,000 average in 2,467 theaters for "Saving Silverman."

Based on the best-selling sequel by Thomas Harris, "Hannibal" follows Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) a decade after "Silence of the Lambs" as one of his old victims plots re-

venge against the serial killer.

"Hannibal" just devoured everybody," said Larry Gleason, president of worldwide distribution for MGM.

Icon

Since "Silence of the Lambs," Lecter has become a pop-culture icon, an almost universally recognized bogeyman.

"It's like Batman or Superman," Gleason said. "You don't have to say much more than 'Hannibal.' It's truly become part of the worldwide vocabulary."

MGM, which co-produced "Hannibal" with Universal, sorely needed a success. Struggling to overcome more than a decade of financial troubles and shifts in ownership and management, MGM's last hit was in 1999 with the James Bond flick "The World Is Not Enough."

Audiences did not seem to care that Hopkins was the only principal to return from "Silence of the Lambs." Julianne Moore subbed for Jodie Foster as FBI agent Clarice Starling, while Ridley Scott ("Gladiator") succeeded Jonathan Demme as director.

Moviegoers also were not swayed by "Hannibal's" mixed reviews. Many critics said it

was weak compared to its predecessor. Some critics were nauseated by a gruesome banquet scene at the end of "Hannibal."

But that scene simply whetted audience appetites, Dergarabedian said.

Gore

"The pre-release buzz about the gore in the final scene, that just added to the mystique," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.:

1. "Hannibal," \$58 million.
2. "The Wedding Planner," \$7.8 million.
3. "Saving Silverman," \$7.4 million.
4. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," \$5.1 million.
5. "Cast Away," \$5 million.
6. "Save the Last Dance," \$4.8 million.
7. "Traffic," \$4.4 million.
8. "Valentine," \$3.8 million.
9. "Chocolat," \$3.1 million.
10. "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," \$3 million.

AP

Paltrow and Affleck turn in exceptional performances in romantic drama

By NESTOR U. TORRE

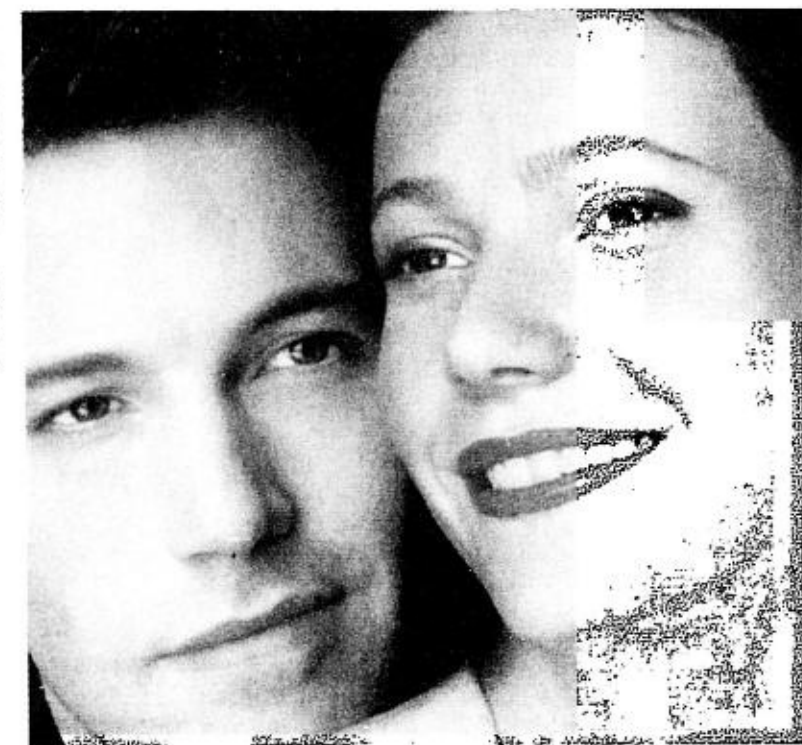
"BOUNCE" is a romantic drama that's also a contemporary morality tale with bite and edge. It brings together two very different worlds peopled by the lead characters played by Gwyneth Paltrow and Ben Affleck.

Lothario

Paltrow is happily married to a playwright and scriptwriter, while

Affleck is a happy-go-lucky advertising honcho who plays the field with the polished cynicism of the experienced lothario. Their worlds literally collide when Affleck and the playwright are stranded, along with many others, in a snowed-in airport terminal during the hectic Christmas season.

Since the playwright wants to go home to his family and Affleck has picked up a lovely and compliant woman to keep him company for the



AFFLECK AND PALTROW. Two different worlds.

night, the lothario grandly offers his seat on the last plane out of the airport to the family man.

Moment of kindness

Little does he know that the plane is going to crash, and that everyone on board is fated to perish. There, but for his single moment of kindness, would Affleck have gone.

The fact that he's still alive both relieves and troubles Affleck. It's great to be alive, but he feels terribly guilty about his "replacement's" demise. He sinks into a drunken stupor and has to undergo rehab for his drinking problem.

One year later, he rejoins the world as a relatively rehabilitated man—but his sense of guilt is still there. To assuage it, he looks up the playwright's widow (Paltrow) and two sons, and finds them struggling to survive.

Deal

He decides to help them and arranges for the widow to broker the sale of a building to his partner, a

Still, enough good things have happened before that to make the film a rewarding viewing experience. At the top of the list is Paltrow's painfully believable and empathetic performance.

Torment

At first, her character keeps her torment to herself. But the placid front she offers is covered with cracks that betray her utter helplessness and anguish.

Paltrow manages this combination of control and confession with admirable subtlety. And yet, when her emotions have to peak, she isn't shy about baring her heart and soul.

For his part, Affleck initially appears to be content to be Paltrow's thespian consort, framing her memorable performance but making sure not to distract from it. As the film progresses, however, he is drawn deeper into the core of his character's conflict, and his performance acquires an urgency and power of its own.

At first, her character keeps her torment to herself. But the placid front she offers is covered with cracks that betray her utter helplessness and anguish

deal that gives her a big commission.

Now that he's given her and her sons a financial boost, Affleck is happy to step out of the widow's life—but he makes the huge "mistake" of falling in love with her. Little by little, the family life he experiences with her changes him for the better.

But what about his secret—when is he going to tell her that he was partly involved, if not responsible, for her husband's death? Tragically, he keeps postponing the moment of truth until she finds out from somebody else, and the world they now share crumbles.

New disaster

Is there any way out of this new disaster? Thus far, the movie has told its story with simplicity and truth, but its effort to get a happy ending out of the ruins of the couple's love prompts it to resort to melodramatic touches and flourishes that comprise the last part of the movie.

Buddy

We've seen Affleck in a number of movies, some of them in tandem with his buddy, Matt Damon. In most of them, it was Damon who was the dominant talent, while Affleck played support. We wondered if this was going to be his permanent place in the movie world, a dependable actor who would never rise up to genuine stardom.

Well, "Bounce" has proven that Affleck is meant for better things. The complexity of the character he plays has challenged him to go beyond his "agreeable" performances of yore, to attain the level of a genuine lead performer.

But "Bounce" is still Paltrow's film. After all, it's her character who suffers the death of a beloved and the deceit of the new man in her life. And the actress has what it takes to make the viewer feel the searing pain of these two major tragedies.

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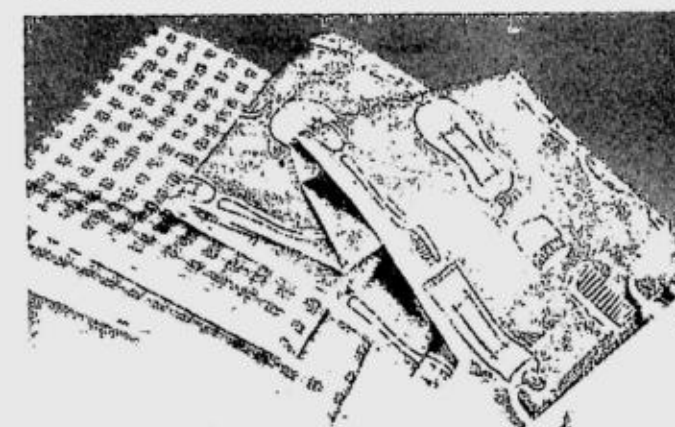
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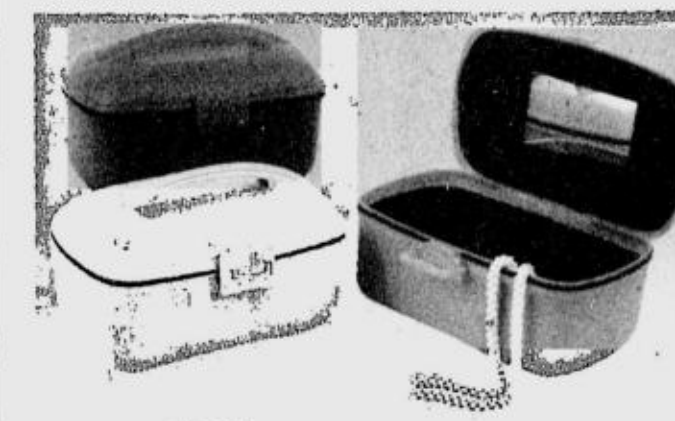
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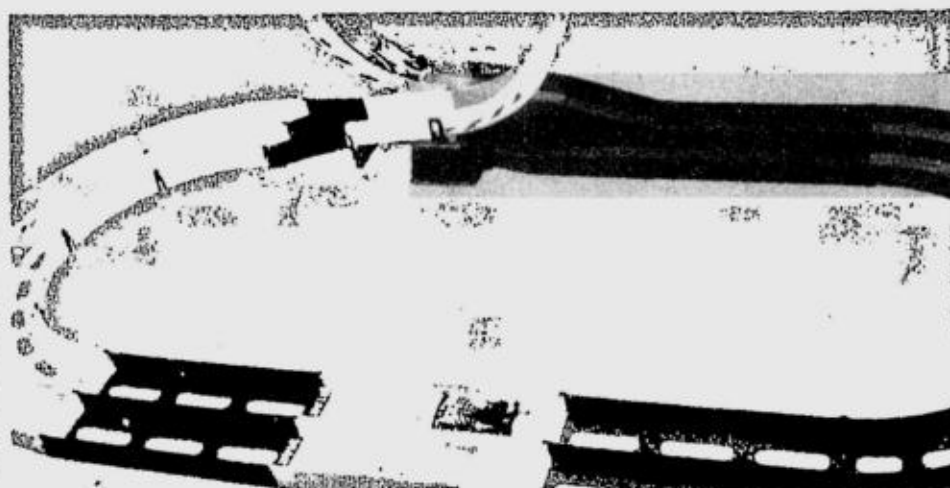
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Restored 'Satyricon' hits art house theaters

BY DERRICK HENRY

NEW YORK—Federico Fellini called his films his children, and often worried that they would deteriorate and disappear.

But a new print of "Satyricon," one of the legendary Italian director's favorite works, is making a slow round of the North American art house circuit.

Scathing reviews

The film received some scathing reviews when it was released in 1970. The New Yorker film critic Pauline Kael, in March 1970, called it "one long orgy of eating, drinking, cruelty and copulation, and he goes all the way with his infatuation with transvestitism, nymphomania, homosexuality, monsters."

But people who worked on the film considered it visionary, despite its wild, twisted storyline.

"It's so far ahead of everything," said actor Gordon Mitchell, 77, who played a thief who kidnaps a demigod-like, albino hermaphrodite in the spiraling and sometimes confusing film. "He was showing things as if they were coming in from

the future. He got so many futuristic people."

Mitchell, who starred in a variety of early Italian strongman movies such as "Atlas in the Land of the Cyclops," where Fellini saw him in 1961, recalled the loose manner in which "Satyricon" was shot, sometimes with no script.

"Fellini was a free thinker," he said in a phone interview from his office in Los Angeles, where he now is a partner of World Gym International.

The movie is based on a Roman work that survives only in fragments. Gaius Petronius, one of Nero's personal advisers, wrote "Satyricon" about 60 AD after a dispute with the emperor.

Decadence

The searing piece describes greed and decadence in Ancient Rome.

Fellini's dreamlike interpretation drips with surreal color, visual extravagance and unusual characters. The storyline—two young male students fight for the heart of a third—quickly disintegrates into loosely associated episodes, including a bawdy banquet and a funeral rehearsal. The film ends in mid-sentence, with the camera retreating from a set as crumbled as the storyline.



FELLINI. Free thinker.

The film starred Martin Potter, Hiram Keller and Max Born.

Fellini, who died in 1993 at age 73, was saddened in his later years that copies of the film fell into disrepair, said Charlotte Chandler, author of the 1995 book "I, Fellini."

"He worried that the prints would deteriorate in their horrible condition and would disappear," she said, recalling that in 1990 he told her: "When I am asked if I have children, I always answer quickly and simply, 'No, my films are my children.'"

"Satyricon" was one of his favorites," Chandler said.

In Chandler's book, Fellini says he would read the Petronius work as a boy, filling in the pieces with his own stories.

While not a true restoration, the new "Satyricon" has received much attention from art houses. In a restoration, technicians would use more expensive methods to fix such flaws as scratches and chemical scars in the original negative. With this case, technicians made a new negative from the original and retranslated the subtitles to make them more precise.

Updated subtitles

"To update the subtitles is very important because 'Satyricon' has very raunchy text," said Bruce Goldstein, director of the repertory program at New York's Film Forum. "It's very shocking, actually."

The first of the new prints premiered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in December, then was shown in Toronto. On Friday (Jan. 26), the prints opened at the Film Forum and Los Angeles' Nuart Theatre, where Mitchell said he planned to see it. The film then moves to San Francisco, Cleveland, Seattle and a few other cities over the next couple of months.

John Kirk, an MGM technician in Los Angeles who helped retranslate and produce the new prints, said he took on the task when he saw the terrible shape the movie was in.

"It looks beautiful. The negative held up pretty well," Kirk said. "We only allow it to be played in special venues."

The two copies of the new print, called vault prints, normally are not circulated and will be used in the DVD release of the film in April. AP



MEL Brooks, left, and Thomas Meehan, authors of the musical comedy "The Producers."

Mel Brooks updates 'The Producers'

BY JAMES REINDL

CHICAGO—Mel Brooks feels like a kid again. Some might see that as odd for the director whose filmography spans five decades and includes "Blazing Saddles," "Young Frankenstein" and "Spaceballs."

Latest venture

But here's the "2000-Year-Old Man" (now 74) invigorated by his latest venture, a \$10 million musical based on his Academy Award-winning 1967 comedy icon, "The Producers."

"This has been wonderful. It's awakened the child in me," he says one recent afternoon while awaiting rehearsal at the Cadillac Palace. "I got in this business not even thinking it was a business. I thought it was just a joyous romp, a dream, you know, something you did after work."

"And then after a while, I didn't realize it but I became a cog in a big machine called the movie industry. I felt like I was just turning out boxes of Cornflakes and I got lost."

"It's the first time I've been back to why I'm in show business: Because I love it."

"The Producers," Brooks' first feature film, won a best screenplay Oscar for the comedian, who gained early fame with a routine he and Carl Reiner developed called "The 2,000-Year-Old Man." The movie also earned a supporting actor nomination for Gene Wilder.

More than 30 years after "The Producers" hit movie houses, Brooks has rewritten and reworked the film for the stage with the help of writer and friend Thomas Meehan and Tony Award-winning director and choreographer Susan Stroman.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals began in New York in December, and the Chicago tryout runs through Feb. 25. The musical opens on Broadway April 19 with Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick in the lead roles made famous by Zero Mostel and Wilder. The production is the most anticipated show of the spring season with an advance sale expected to top \$10 million by the time it opens at the St. James Theatre.

Funny thing, reawakenings. They can be infectious and inspirational.

"He is one of the reasons we wanted to do it," says Lane. "I wanted to make this journey and say I worked with Mel Brooks. He's been—I hate to use the word—he's been adorable. I've never seen a human being happier and obviously invigorated by this whole process."

Fans of the film will recognize the story line.

Has-been Broadway producer Max Bialystock, played by Lane, seduces little old ladies for money, pinning to get back on top. Broderick plays mild-mannered accountant Leo Bloom, who unwittingly gives Bialystock the plot to hit the jackpot.

Raging success

Together they scheme to find the worst play ever written, oversell subscriptions and abscond with the money when it flops. Unfortunately for them, "Springtime for Hitler" is a raging success and a ticket to jail. "It's a peculiar thing to have it all in your head," MEL/P. C7



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Mel Brooks . . . (From page C6)

says Broderick. "We both know the movie so well that it's not like we can forget fairly anything except lines that are new for this. I don't have to turn on the VCR to watch that movie."

While keeping the story line, the musical needed new material. Brooks wrote 17 new songs for his love letter to Broadway. Brooks and Meehan, friends for more than 30 years, collaborated on new plot twists and a new ending. Stroman set it all to dance and is directing with an eye toward a modern audience.

"An audience today has a more cinematic eye," she says. "People want the lyric and the choreography and the staging to all push the plot forward."

Stroman won a Tony Award in 1992 for her choreography for "Crazy for You" and her latest Broadway work was directing and choreographing a revival of "The Music Man." Stroman's impeccable credentials notwithstanding, Brooks is taking new steps of his own by ceding direction.

Singularly talented

"I'm not used to it because for the last 25 years I have been the director of everything I've written," he says. "However, I can say today I am head over heels in love with Susan Stroman. She is singularly talented and she knows she owes the audience a great show." The feeling is mutual.

AP

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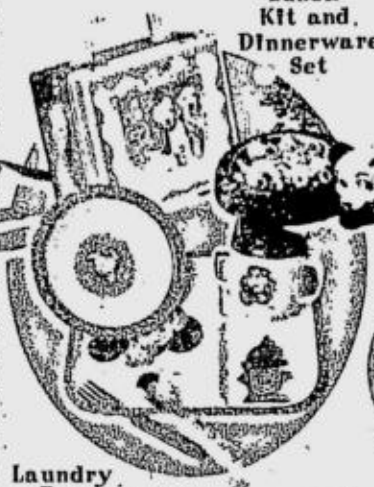
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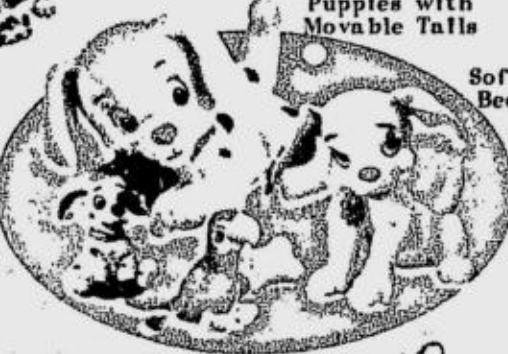
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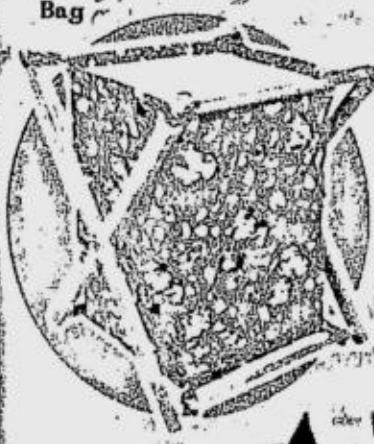
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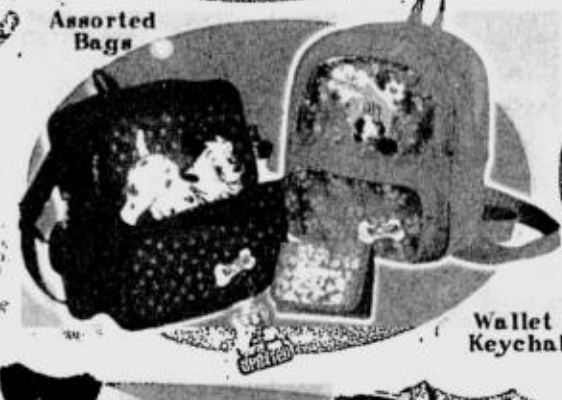
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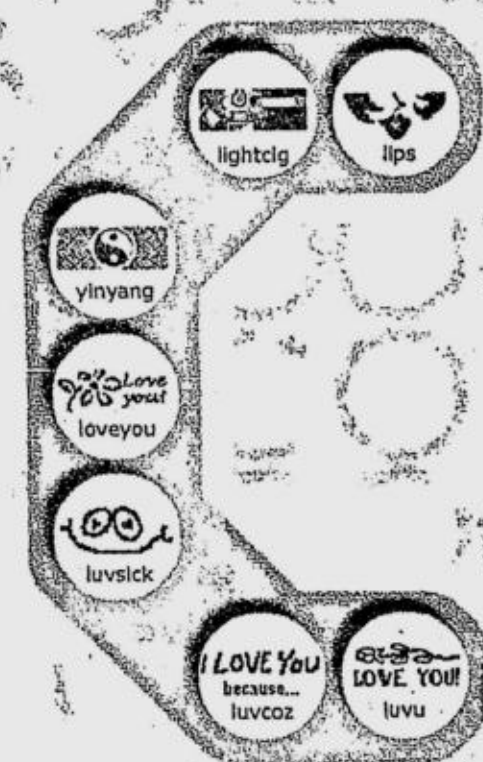
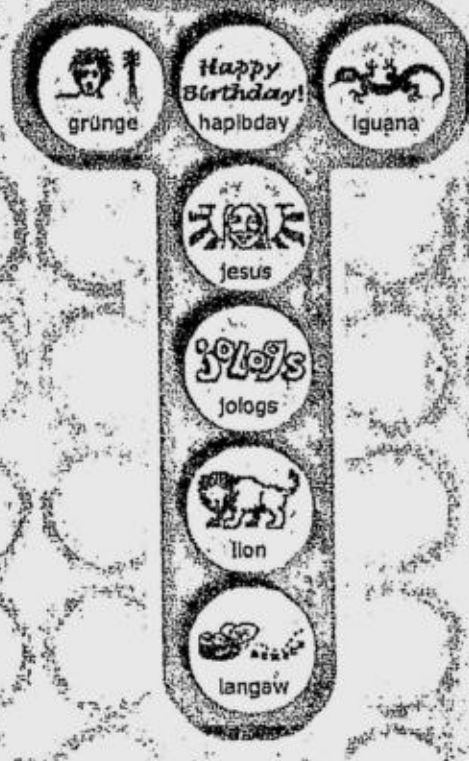
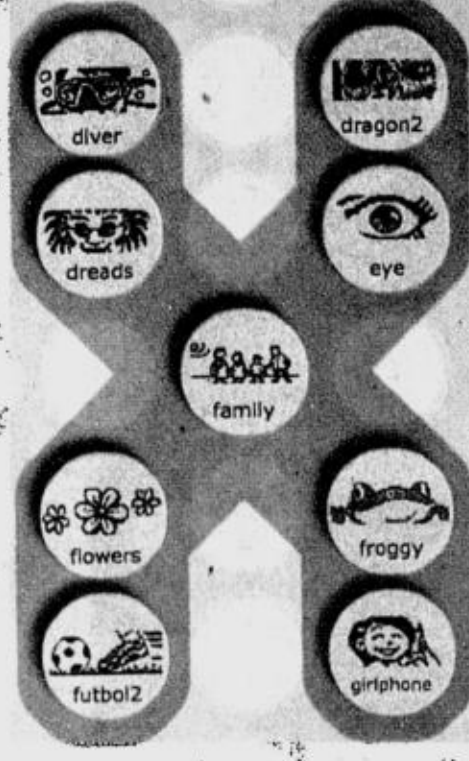
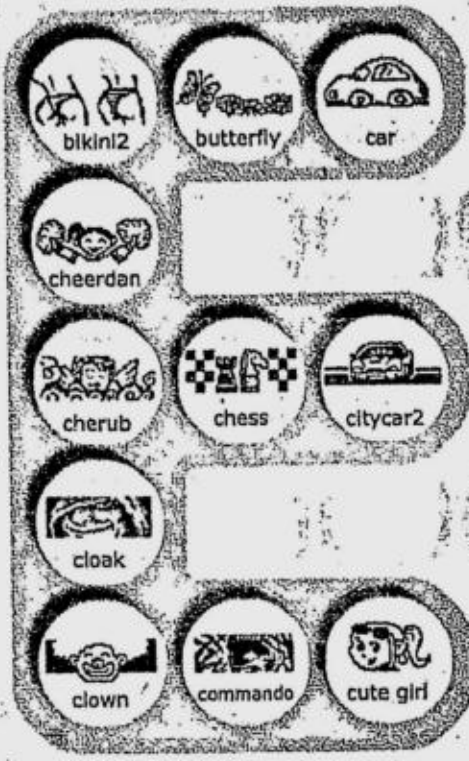
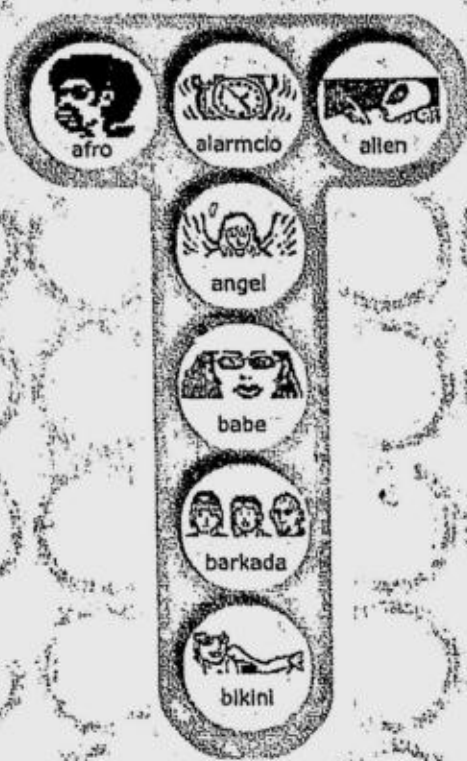
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Saturday **SPECIAL****'Rent' gets rave review,
R rating in Singapore**

THE predominantly Pinoy cast of "Rent" has gotten a rave review in Singapore from Straits Times reviewer Ong Sor Fern. "Having seen the original Broadway cast in action, there is no doubt in this reviewer's mind that this cast is comparable to the former in terms of vocal pyrotechnics. But this cast goes one better than the Broadway cast - it has heart," writes Ong.

In a related development,

Singapore's censors have given the musical an R(A) rating, which means only those who are 18 years or older can watch the play. At the same time the National Arts Council has decided not to fund the Singapore run of "Rent" saying it "is unable to provide public funds for a play which contains certain themes acknowledging alternative lifestyles as an accepted way of life".

The following are excerpts from

the Ong Sor Fern review:

"If there is something 'Rent' does not lack, it is Attitude with a capital A.

Confrontational stance

"And it is a very New York sort of attitude-in-your-face language, casual pairings of every conceivable gender combination from straight to gay, the gruff confrontational stance of most of its characters.

'RENT'/P.D2

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The new Kims on the block

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

LEA Salonga is undoubtedly a tough act to follow after she put her mark on the role of Kim in the Cameron McKintosh production of 'Miss Saigon.' After all, she originated the part in London and won the Sir Laurence Olivier award, repeated her triumph on Broadway with a Tony and 10 years after her last performance, came home to Manila to show local audiences what the fuss was all about. When she ended her run last December at the CCP, people were wondering whether people would still watch the musical without her.

Life after Lea

The new Kims, Cez Campos and Ima Castro are proving that there is life after Lea in 'Miss Saigon.' Cez, who was Lea's alternate during the first three months, now does the lead role six times a week, while Ima, who is a standout in the local concert scene, performs twice a week.

Cez cites the case of a couple who approached her after the show to offer congratulations. "Sabi nila, 'puede ba naming halikan ka.' Before the show, we were disappointed to learn that you were doing Kim but after watching you, we don't regret coming here," Cez proudly says.

Now that she's onstage six times a week, she's more at ease with her performance. "Doing two shows a week is harder than six times. Before, kasi I would do nothing the whole week because I wasn't part of the ensemble. So when it was my turn, fifth gear kaagad ako dapat. So mahirap ma-energize ang sarili ko. Sometimes I would watch the show when I wasn't on but I only got really comfortable when Lea left," says the new Kim.



THE TWO KIMS. Cez Campos and Ima Castro.

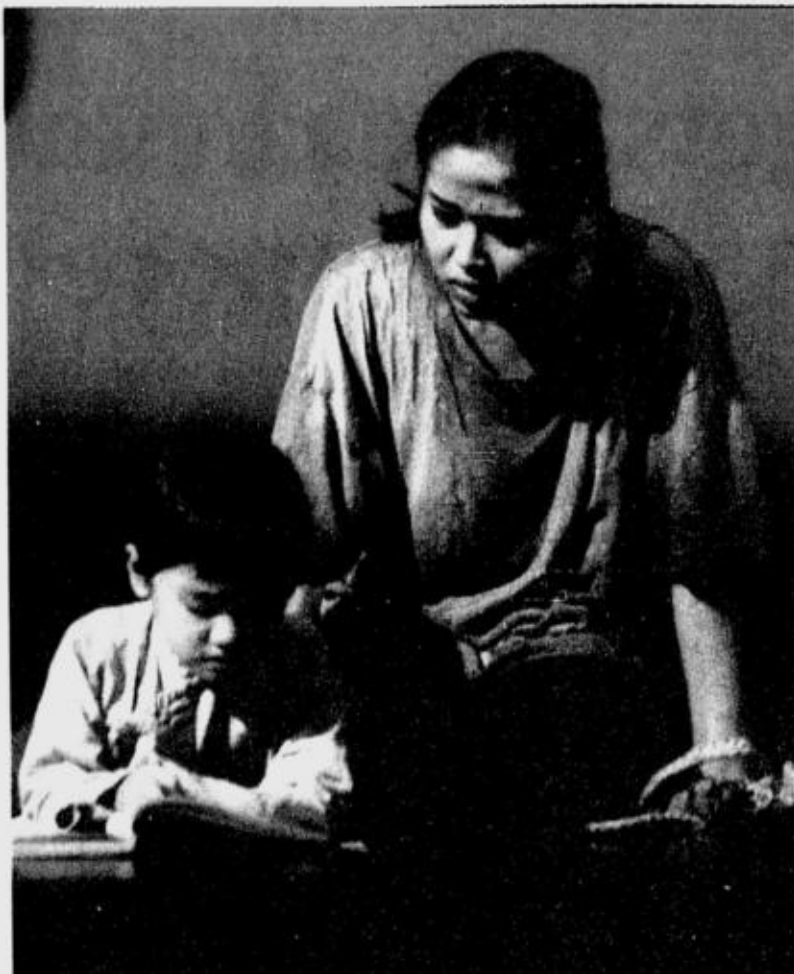
Cez has already played Kim in past productions. She auditioned in 1995 for the Australian version of 'Miss Saigon' but didn't get the lead role right away. Eventually, she landed the coveted part. When it was time to rehearse, she asked wardrobe if they were wearing stockings. The reply: "No, darling, it's bare skin."

"Gusto ko nang unuwi," Cez recalls. "Tapos nakita ko ang ginagawa ng cast. Rehearsal pa lang may naghahalikan na ng totoo. Tapos hinahalikan pa yung dibdib. Sabi ko, 'ano ba ito,

nagpapa-impress ba sila sa isa't isa or is it really like this in other countries? I was shocked. It took me two months to adjust. Then I learned to enjoy my part. The thing I liked best about my role was that I could be a different person."

Better person

"I can say na nag-mature ako sa 'Miss Saigon.' I was only 20 when I started in the show. Before, tahimik na tahimik ako. Hindi mo ako makausap. Sa play, I became a better person. I became more confident."



On her role as Kim, Cez says she wants to highlight her character's vulnerable side. However, she feels that Kim's suicide was unnecessary. If the play were set today, she says the modern woman would give up her child to Chris and Ellen and not kill herself.

"Pag-patay ko nga sa sarili ko, I look at Chris and say to myself, 's...t, bakit ko ba pinatay ang sarili ko. Bakit?'" She realizes of course that the musical would be totally different with the ending she has in mind. "Baka maging 'Sounds of

Music' bigla," she laughs.

Cez went on to reprise her role in London. There was a period, when she had to play Kim eight times a week for three weeks. "That was really emotionally draining," she sighs. "After the matinee, I just wanted to rest and recharge myself but I had to come back onstage for the evening show and go through the emotional turmoil all over again."

It was in London where she met her husband, Nick Bonner. Nick is also an actor and in fact plays one of the GIs in the local production.

Cez says she wants to highlight her character's vulnerable side. However, she feels that Kim's suicide was unnecessary. If this were set today, the modern woman would give up her child but not kill herself

Cez admits she wouldn't have accepted the part if there was nothing for her husband in the musical. Being away from home for six months was simply too much for her. Luckily for the couple, there was a part for Nick in the Philippine production.

Best kisser

All in all, Cez has appeared with more than 20 actors who played Chris and she can even say who's the best kisser of them all - Peter Cousin, who came out with her in Australia. "How nice his lips," she giggles. When the Chris in the local production, Scott Ansen, found out about it, he continuously teased her about her, even telling her how jealous he was.

Asked about her plans after March when 'Miss Saigon' ends its run, Cez says, "I don't really know. I'm not planning yet. I should be. I'm married to an Englishman and I'm already based in London. I have to consider my husband's own plans. I don't know if he'll want to stay. I want him to do something better than his role in 'Miss Saigon.' Gusto ko namang mag-shine siya." (To be continued)

'Rent' gets rave review, R rating in Singapore

(From page D1)

"Which perhaps explains why it took a mostly Filipino cast to plumb the emotional depths of a musical that rocked Broadway when it debuted in 1996.

"Composer/librettist Jonathan Larson's work has won every award worth winning on Broadway, from the Drama Desk award to the Pulitzer Prize to the Tony. It is an ambitious rock musical - almost every single line is sung - which borrows wittily from Puccini's opera 'La Boheme.'"

"Instead of a Parisian garret, the setting is a freezing New York loft, from which musician Roger (Calvin Millado) and aspiring filmmaker Mark (J. M. Rodriguez) are about to be evicted unceremoniously by landlord Benny (Brendon Marc Fernandez)."

"Instead of tuberculosis, the plague of choice is Aids. Roger is HIV-positive. As is Mimi (Rachel Alejandro), the dancer at an S&M club whom he falls for.

"Rounding out this group is Tom Collins (Michael De Mesa), his drag queen girlfriend Angel (Jake Macapagal), Mark's ex-girlfriend Maureen (Anna Fegi) and her girlfriend, Joanne (Pam Oei)."

Minimal plot

"The plot is minimal, spanning a year from one Christmas Eve to the next: performance artist Maureen is organizing a protest against yuppie scum Benny's attempt at evicting squatters; Collins meets Angel when the latter rescues him after a mugging; Roger and Mimi meet and break up.

"Having seen the original Broadway cast in action, there is no doubt in this reviewer's mind that this cast is comparable to the former in terms of vocal pyrotechnics.

But this cast goes one better than the Broadway cast - it has heart.

"The first hint comes early in Millado's solo, 'One Song Glory.' Adam Pascal, who played Roger on Broadway, delivered it with an angry rocker's howl that made it a raging protest. Millado, on the other hand, taps into the song's underlying melancholy and turns it into a moving lament that brings a lump to the throat.

"Alejandro's Mimi sounds even better than Broadway's Daphne Rubin-Vega. Her crystal-clear voice is far stronger than the smokey whisper of Rubin-Vega, who got drowned out occasionally by the live band.

Boy-next-door enthusiasm

"Apple-cheeked Rodriguez brings a boy-next-door enthusiasm to his role that makes Mark a far more appealing character than Anthony Rapp's detached observer in the Broadway production.

"There are other scene-stealers that, by themselves, are worth the price of admission.

"Oei and Rodriguez's humorous 'Tango: Maureen,' in which their

competing characters find unexpected common ground bonding over the object of their affection, is a definite crowd pleaser.

"Fegi, with her wild shock of auburn, tumbleweed curls, brought the house down with her bravura showstopper, 'Over The Moon.' She got a theatre packed with glitterati on the gala night to moo enthusiastically in unison too.

"Oei is a feisty performer whose finest moment is definitely the 'Take Me Or Leave Me' number, where she matches Fegi, lung-busting belt for belt.

"Another standout during the 'Seasons Of Love' number was fellow Singaporean Asha, an ensemble member who packs a surprisingly mean, bluesy, Aretha Franklin yell in a petite frame.

"And if you ask me how do you measure this production: How about a pulsating heart that does fine justice to Larson's celebration of life and love?"

The following is the report on the R(A) rating written by Straits Times reporter Clarissa Oon:

"An R(A) rating has been slapped on the Broadway musical 'Rent,' which opens on Saturday at the Victoria Theatre.

No funding

"The National Arts Council has also decided not to fund the Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) production, which has homosexual themes and depicts drug use in the lives of struggling New York artists.

"SRT's artistic director Gaurav Kripalani received the news by fax yesterday. The Public Entertainment Licensing Unit (Pelu) has, however, given the musical a licence to go on.

"A statement from the council said that while it was aware that 'Rent' was a well-known Broadway hit, it 'is unable to provide public funds for a play which contains certain themes acknowledging alternative lifestyles as an accepted way of life'.

"Only audiences aged 18 and above are allowed to watch an R(A)-rated play.

"Mr Kripalani said that the SRT had put a 'for mature audiences' caveat in all its publicity, but not an R(A) rating because 'I know 17- and 18-year-olds who've seen the show in New York and it moved them so much they decided to go into theatre full-time'.

Disappointed

"He was disappointed about the rating but respected the council's decision.

"On the funding issue, he said: 'Every dollar helps because a theatre production is always an expensive proposition, especially when you're doing a major musical.'

"SRT now has to reprint all its programmes and advertisements to reflect the R(A) rating, which will set the company back at least \$5,000.

"The musical, which has won 34 awards since 1994, including the Tony Award for Best Musical, cost \$500,000 to produce. Its presenting sponsor is Web-based company Yahoo! Singapore."

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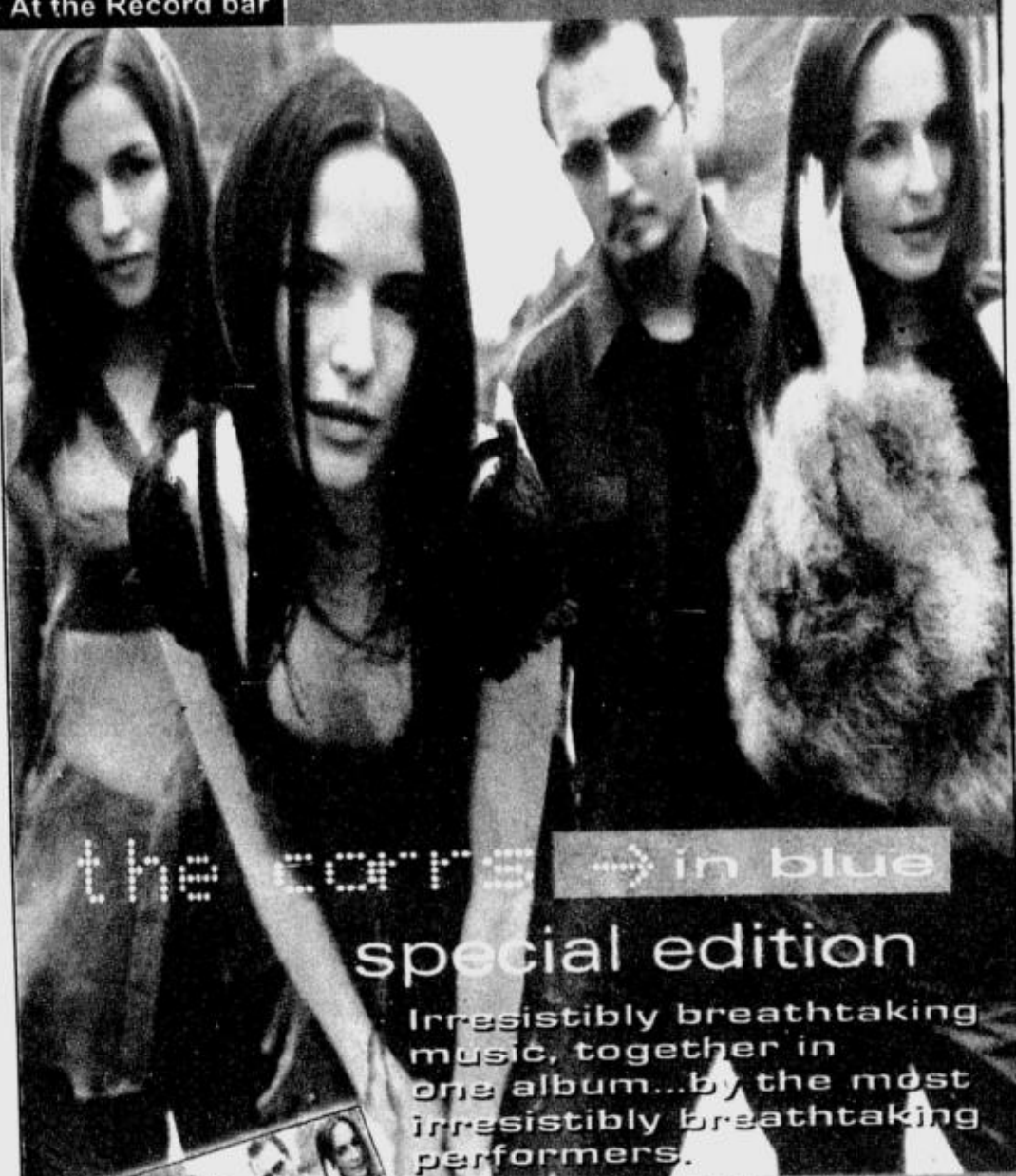
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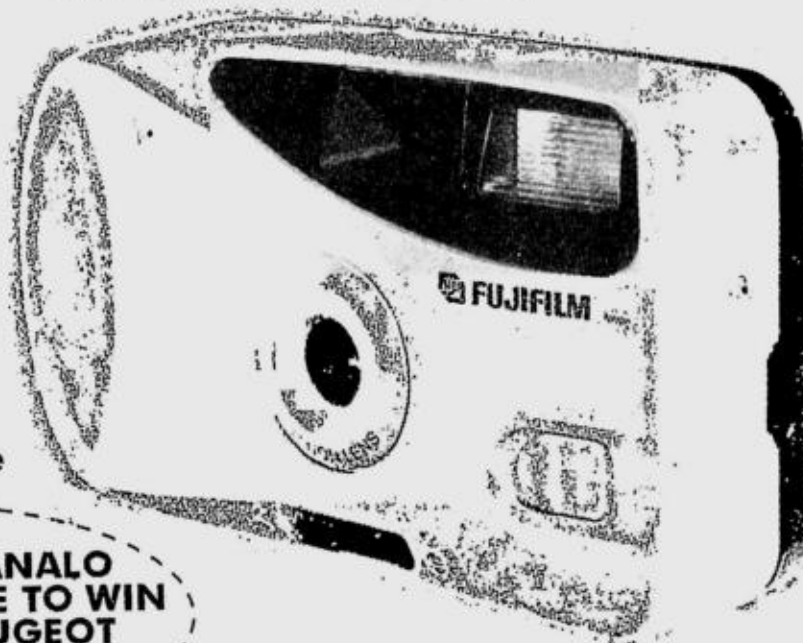
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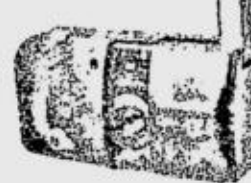
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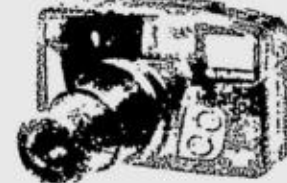
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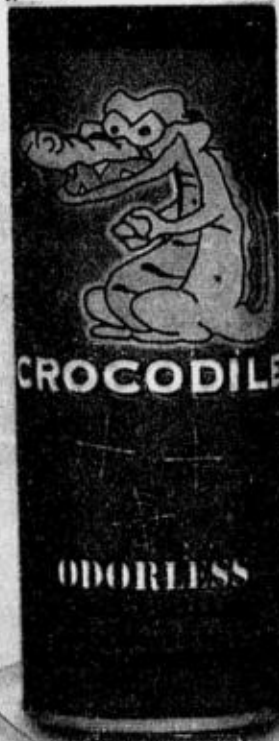
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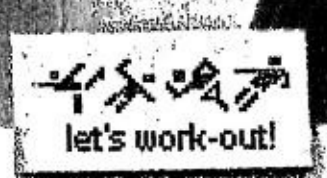
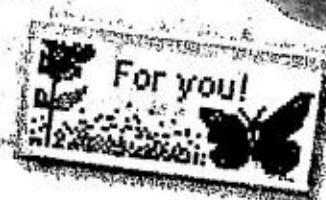
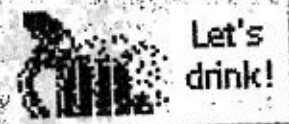
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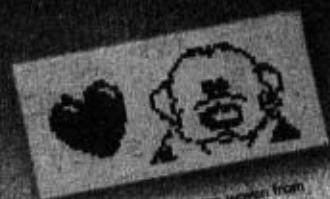
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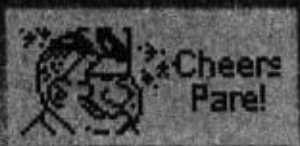
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Let's meet to celebrate the New Year!

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday Gemma! Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.



Happy Birthday List. Nais kitang makapiling, dahil sa bawat araw na nagdaraan ang puso't isipan ko'y tanghang sa iyo lamang.



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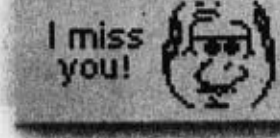
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Han Ong comes up with impressive body of work

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

SOME weeks ago, we wrote about Han Ong, a Chinese-Filipino playwright who has been based in the United States for more than 15 years, and in 1997 became the youngest playwright to have been awarded the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship.

Genius Award

The honor, also referred to as the Genius Award, includes a cash prize of more than \$200,000—a fortune, by the standards.

Not many people here were aware of Han Ong's achievement, so our piece on him attracted some attention, plus requests for more information on the playwright, now regarded as one of the most promising writers in US theater, and internationally, as well.

Just in the nick of time, we've received more material from the executive director of Ma-Yi, the Fil-American theater company that has mounted some of Han Ong's plays, and in fact helped the playwright get better known in the USA.

We learn that Han Ong is a prolific writer with nearly three dozen plays to his name. They include:

"The L.A. Plays," presented by the American repertory Theater in Boston in 1993, and by the Almeida Theater in London later that same year. "Reasons to Love," Magic Theater, San Francisco, 1992.



HAN ONG. He has written nearly three dozen plays.

"Bachelor Rat," Thick Description, San Francisco, 1992.

"The Chang Fragments," The Joseph Papp Public Theater, New York City, 1996.

"Watcher," Mark Taper Forum, New Works Festival, Los Angeles 1998.

Ong has also done some performance art pieces:

"Symposium on Manila" and "Corner Store Geography," The Joseph Papp Public Theater, 1993.

"Play of Father and Junior," Solo Mio Festival, San Francisco, 1995.

"Airport Music," a collaboration with Jessica Hagedorn, The Joseph Papp Public Theater and Berkeley Repertory Theater, 1994.

Trilogy

Ong's play, "Middle Finger," was commissioned and developed by The Joseph Papp Public Theater in 1997 and was presented last September by Ma-Yi in New York City.

"Swoony Planet" was workshoped by Ma-Yi in 1997. It's the first in a trilogy of plays, and all three play (the Companion pieces are "Autodidacts" and "Virgin") will be presented by Ma-Yi under the title, "The Suitcase Trilogy," in 2003.

And "Mysteries" will be mounted by Ma-Yi this May.

Incidentally, Ong's "Middle Finger" has gotten special notice because it's been printed in full in this month's issue of American Theater magazine.

It's a reworking of Frank Wedekind's "Spring Awakening" and is the story of teenage-Filipino boys coming of age.

In an interview accompanying the script text, Ong admits that the play was difficult for him to write because it was an adaptation—and the original play was already a superior work.

Still, he was commissioned to do the adaptation and he needed the money (this was before

his "Genius" award and its financial largesse), so he tried to look for something to focus on.

Essayistic defenses

After much analysis, he saw his opening: In the original script, Wedekind's young characters tended to talk like the playwright—"as if they were at a podium, mouthing essayistic defenses against authoritarianism."

He then decided that his contribution would be to "find a language suitable to boys—you know, gross and adolescent—and see if the audience is still able to get on their side."

As the text in American Theater magazine amply shows, Ong has succeeded in his effort to restore the play back to the youth it's supposed to be about.

He also makes the most important characters Filipinos living in the United States—young Jakob Rodriguez, his best friend Benjamin Lunga, Jakob's father and mother, Benjamin's mother and Jakob's sister, Hilda.

We hope that Ma-Yi's plan to bring one of its productions to Manila this year will prosper, and that Han Ong join the troupe on its performing tour of the Philippines.

He was only 13 when he and his family migrated to the States, and he's in his early 30's now. It would be great if he could pay his homeland a visit, so we can congratulate him for his success in the States, and he can share what he's learned there with our young playwrights.

Filmmaker Ditsi Carolino in London for advanced studies

BY RICA AREVALO

AWARD-WINNING documentary filmmaker Ditsi Carolino left for London recently on a one-year study grant at the National Film and Television School (NFTS). The NFTS is one of the most reputable film schools in Europe and the most highly-regarded in England. Ditsi is enrolled in the advanced program where a curriculum is specially designed for her to meet her creative needs in documentary filmmaking.

Domestic violence

A day before she flew to London, we had this interview on the road with co-director Nana Buxani driving us around in the flurry of last-minute errands. The two have just wrapped up a documentary on domestic violence, a film about one woman's ordeal living with a husband who has battered her for years. They are now doing pre-production work for a possible documentary on children in prisons.

Why study? Ditsi says, "This is exactly what I need. I never had formal training in documentary production. I attended one workshop conducted by Goethe Institut and



DITSI and co-director Nana Buxani in Fukuoka, Japan, October 1997.

Mowelfund and that was it. That was 10 years ago and I've directed a dozen documentaries since. *Pero lahat ito binuo* from practical experience, gut feel, paying close attention to subjects, letting them tell the story instead of thinking about 'style' and lots of lessons from the school of life."

Furthermore, "At the NFTS, I will be exposed to more documentaries. I will watch, learn and discern. I need to learn new ways of creating docu-

mentaries. New ways of shooting, telling a story, editing. This will be a great opportunity to explore new ways of pushing the boundaries of the documentary as we know it in the Philippines," remarks Ditsi.

The award-winning duo are drawn to documentaries that are not just good journalistic pieces but have the dramatic structure of a feature story. Their work is riveting and compelling, moving audiences into action.

Both filmmakers are reluctant to go into mainstream television. "It is hard to work with the constraints of TV deadlines. For the kind of documentaries we make, we go through several rough cuts," says Ditsi. "Ang haba ng editing process, we make two or three versions before we're happy and done."

Nana adds, "We just do the work we like to do and then if we think it's interesting to a wider audience, then we go to the TV networks."

Photo exhibit

Nana has just concluded a black-and-white photo exhibit, "Picture Trips," with two other documentary photographers at the Filipinas Heritage Library. All her photographs were taken in the course of their travels attending film festivals in Europe.

She tells us, "In festivals abroad, the films competing come mostly from first world countries because they have all the resources to do their documentaries, even in 16mm or 35mm film. In many festivals, film lang ang pwedeng mag-compete. Panay loneliness or isolation naman ang tema ng mga pelikula nila. Pero sa akin lang, mas interesting ang mga docu galing sa mga third world countries, kahit gawa lang sa video at wala sa competition, dahil mas rich ang

stories sa dami ng problema."

With film festival awards from Brussels, New York and Yamagata, Japan, the two are gearing up for another challenge: a possible documentary on children in prisons. There are now media guidelines prohibiting the showing of the faces and the mentioning of names of the youth offenders.

Ditsi explains, "Normally you like to give a face and a name to an issue, but what can you do when you're dealing with youth offenders and can't show faces or reveal names? This will be a big challenge for us."

Fresh outlook

Ditsi shares, "We are committed to making documentaries about issues of great concern in a developing country like ours. But this time, I want to do things with fresh eyes, a renewed heart, better technique and, hopefully, a marketing and distribution sense to boot!" After 10 years, *kailangan ko ng break at panibagong pananaw*.

Nana adds, "Gagawa kami ng documentary hanggang uuga-uga na kami."

Nana is currently preparing for another exhibit and doing pre-production work on "Children in Prisons."

And Ditsi, here's her latest e-mail: "Ang sarap mag-aral! The teachers are professional and competent—how they

can talk about films! But they are so well-grounded, down-to-earth, at parating witty and funny. I am amazed at my classmates. They're so young, most of them are between 24 to 29 but they can sit through the oldest films, and have something intelligent to say at the end of the screening. *Ako naman, inaantok. Sana jetlag lang ito*. But I'm really much better at watching contemporary films dealing with war, poverty and other social issues but treated creatively. They're done so brilliantly, you want to watch them not just on television, but also on the big screen ... in cinemas!"

First documentary

On Feb. 24, 11 a.m., Ditsi Carolino's first documentary, "Masakit sa Mata" (1990), a workshop film produced by Mowelfund and Goethe Institut Manila and co-directed by Joseph Fortin, Mario Guzman, Cesar Hernandez, Cito Fernandez, Roel Tan-Torres, Mylene Segundera and Arturo Boncato Jr., will be screened at Pelikula at Lipunan, Cinema 9, SM Manila.

Another award-winning documentary film of Ditsi and Nana, "Minsan Lang Sila Bata" (Grand Award, New York Festivals and Grand Prix, Brussels Independent Film Festival) and Nick Deocampo's "Children of the Regime" will be screened on the same day.

Come Home to Villa Alegria

Crown Asia, the country's leading middle income property developer, continues its tradition of providing meticulously planned exclusive communities with the grand opening (Feb. 18) of Villa Alegria in the bustling Novaliches district.

A total of 70 villa-style townhomes await Villa Alegria residents who will live in an exclusive estate with concrete-fenced surroundings, wide roads, 24-hour security services, complete water, electric and communication utilities. It is envisioned to placate the clamor for more Crown Asia houses and lots after the nearby Residenza sold out its inventories.

Villa Alegria is located along Camarin Road in Caloocan City, a developing business-commercial area accessible through several main roads from Quezon City. The subdivision's location is near several schools and commercial centers such as SM City Fairview and Robinson's Place.

The road also serves as one of the major gateways to Northern Luzon from Metro Manila and public utility vehicles serve the area round-the-clock. Villa Alegria is also accessible through Commonwealth Avenue, which stretches from the Quezon Memorial Circle to Fairview.

Villa Alegria community shot

A Spanish-inspired masterplanned subdivision, Villa Alegria residents will be treated to a Spanish countryside ambience with lavishly landscaped areas. Amenities include a multi-purpose hall, a wading pool, a basketball court and parks.



Crown Asia

has always utilized landscaped parks in its housing estates as part of its commitment to the health of its residents and to the preservation of the environment.

Victoria units - two storey villas

The villas, with either a two-storey or three-storey design, are priced from P1.4 million to P2.5 million. The floor areas range from 45 to 118 square meters with a balcony, study room and paved carport.

Crown Asia pioneered the concept of "masterplanned communities" housing estates with beautifully designed homes that have one basic theme. And they have stretched this concept further and adapted it for the townhouse setting. Call 7260083-84 for inquiries or visit their website at <http://www.crownasia.com.ph/>

Activities:

8am - motorcade 9am - ribbon cutting 10am blessing of the subdivision 10:30am balloon letting Guests and visitors will be treated to a whole day serenade of a string quartet. Refreshments provided by Boba Bees.

Crown Asia



THE entire performance is a glorious melding of colors and patterns, music, acrobatics, dances and songs.



Viva Las Vegas

"O" is for awe, as the performance unfolds onstage. In Las Vegas, nothing is too extreme to be tried. And this production in the fabulous Bellagio resort, which is currently the most expensive, elaborate and intricate in the history of entertainment, succeeds in translating sheer imagination to stupendous reality.

Waterworld

The stage becomes a veritable waterworld. Water, a million and more gallons of clear, sparkling water where aquabats, dancers and swimmers execute their moves with balletic precision and fluid grace. Again, I am an enraptured viewer.

"O" stands for the water of life, the ebb and flow of life and its rhythms and it is depicted in dance and acrobatic form. Life is literally a circus, with clowns, masked men and women bobbing up and down on carousel horses while trapeze artists suspend themselves and blithely fly through the air, indeed, with the greatest of ease. Most of the acrobats are Russians and French.

The swimmers rise out of the water and sink in synchronized movements, stretching arms and legs in unison. High divers arc and project themselves into the air and into the water for some knuckle-biting suspense.

One moment, the stage is a pool of water, and then it is gone. There is only the stage, and at one moment, it appears to burst with flames, with the actors and dancers silhouetted against it.

The entire performance is a glorious melding of colors and patterns, music, acrobatics, dances and songs. There are live band accompaniments on both sides of the stage, behind screens. A grand piano also takes center stage, where a man and a woman create an illusion of romance. This is a whole new world, where every viewer seems to embark on a magical journey, fording the rivers of life.

And all these are happening in Las Vegas. I expected to be thrilled and enthralled, of course,

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero



having experienced this fabled city as a student of photography in Santa Barbara, California. This is my third visit and I am still properly impressed, not so much with the ding-ding-ding of slot machines, the card tables and their promised bounty but with the virtuoso talents of the performers and the lavish productions of magnificent proportions. Of course, Las Vegas and its mind-boggling stories of fortunes won and lost make for more than fire-side chats.

We stayed for five days and we were billeted in a \$1.7 billion resort hotel, the Bellagio. It takes after an Italian village among fashionable Lake Como communities.

Entertainment capital

Las Vegas—high rollers' paradise, entertainment capital of the world, shopping and dining destination, family vacation spot, convention center and more. But its lasting image, of course, is of its four-mile-long strip, officially Las Vegas Boulevard, of neons, neons, neons everywhere, flashing seemingly forever as they are undimmed for 24 hours, day in and day out. Some may think them tacky but hey, what's life without Las Vegas that is America's biggest tourist destination today.

Almost 34 million visitors made it to this glitzy desert city in 1999 which has 18 of the 20 largest hotels in the USA. Among this is the Bellagio where we stayed. The lavish Italian-inspired hotel had a lake where the sounds of fountains gurgling mingled with music, enough to enchant passersby.

But don't just take my word for it. Let Northwest Airlines take you there, via Narita every Monday and Thursday and everyday via Osaka and Los Angeles. By April 2001, Northwest Airlines will have 21 flights a week. For more details, call 810-0798. Viva Las Vegas, and it's not just Elvis singing to its glories.

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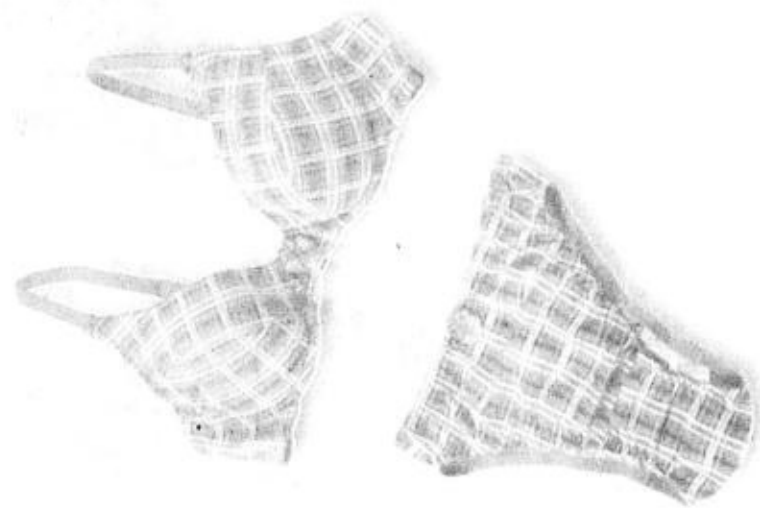
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"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?"



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Celebrity kids talk about their famous parents

By JOCELYN VALLE

DANICA Sotto, 18, dreams of putting up her own restaurant someday. That's the reason she's taking a two-year intensive course at the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila. But that doesn't mean she's shying away from show business, where father Vic Sotto is a popular comedian and producer, while mother Dina Bonnevie is an acclaimed actress and TV host.

Occasional appearances

Danica occasionally appears on "Eat Bulaga," "Click" and some drama shows. She is also one of the new faces on Channel 7's Sunday noon-time show, "SOP," along with other second generation stars like Danica's younger brother Oyo, cousin Miko Sotto and Zsa Zsa Padilla's first-born, Karylle (who insists that she will only be a regular guest on the musical-variety program).

"I'm not ready for a full-time show biz career," Danica admits, adding that she's more excited to try theater instead. She's attended several workshops and looks forward to acting in musicals, particularly the Romeo and Juliet-inspired "West Side Story."

"But maybe in the future," she reconsiders. "I can also try the movies. I'd like to do dramatic roles that my mom does."

Oyo, on the other hand, enigmatically smiles when he tells us that he's interested in action flicks. "If I decide to have a career in show biz," he winks. He'd like to finish high school first (he's in third year) before he makes the big decision.

Several years ago, Oyo co-starred with his dad on Vic's sitcom, "Okey Ka, Fairy Ko," until he lost focus on his studies and his grades slipped. He's learned his lesson now. Besides, Oyo reminds us, doing show biz stuff is just a hobby.

Mainstay

In contrast, the son of singer-actress-host Ali Sotto and Maru Sotto is keen on becoming an actor. He's a mainstay on the youth-oriented series, "Click," and is the latest addition to Bong Revilla's sitcom, "Idol Ko Si Kap." (Both are seen on GMA 7.) On "SOP," he teams-up with Oyo in a segment called "Got To Go," where the cousins give cool advice to their fellow teenagers.

Miko's goal is to become a versatile actor, and win awards in the process. He also loves to sing, so recording a collection of R & B tunes, which he digs, won't be a bad idea for this hibernating UST student.

Interestingly, it wasn't Ali who influenced Miko to join the biz. "It was my dad, who gave me the idea," he shares. "Sabi niya bagay daw ako sa show biz. But he asked me to finish high school first. OK lang sa mom ko. She respects my dad's decision."

Karylle will be launching her debut album on "SOP" and will likewise be the new partner of KC Montero on "GMA Love Stories" soon. Although she's played a major role in Trumpets' original musical, "The Little Mermaid," last year, Karylle is still finding her way in the entertainment industry.

Why does her part on "GMA Love Stories" appeal to Karylle? "I'm shy about facing the camera and I'd like to get used to it," she blushes, thankful that she's not acting in the drama series. Rather, she'll be the voice of girls her age. In between the narrative, the two hosts will try to shed light on the protagonists' real feelings and then give advice to them.

Sensible host

She feels that her Philosophy class at Ateneo has prepared her to speak her mind. She's learned to present her ideas and discuss her views, skills that will make her a sensible host.

Is the Divine Diva giving her any advice? Shaking her head, Karylle explains that her mom refers

CELEBRITY/E5



DANICA SOTTO. Wants to open her own restaurant.

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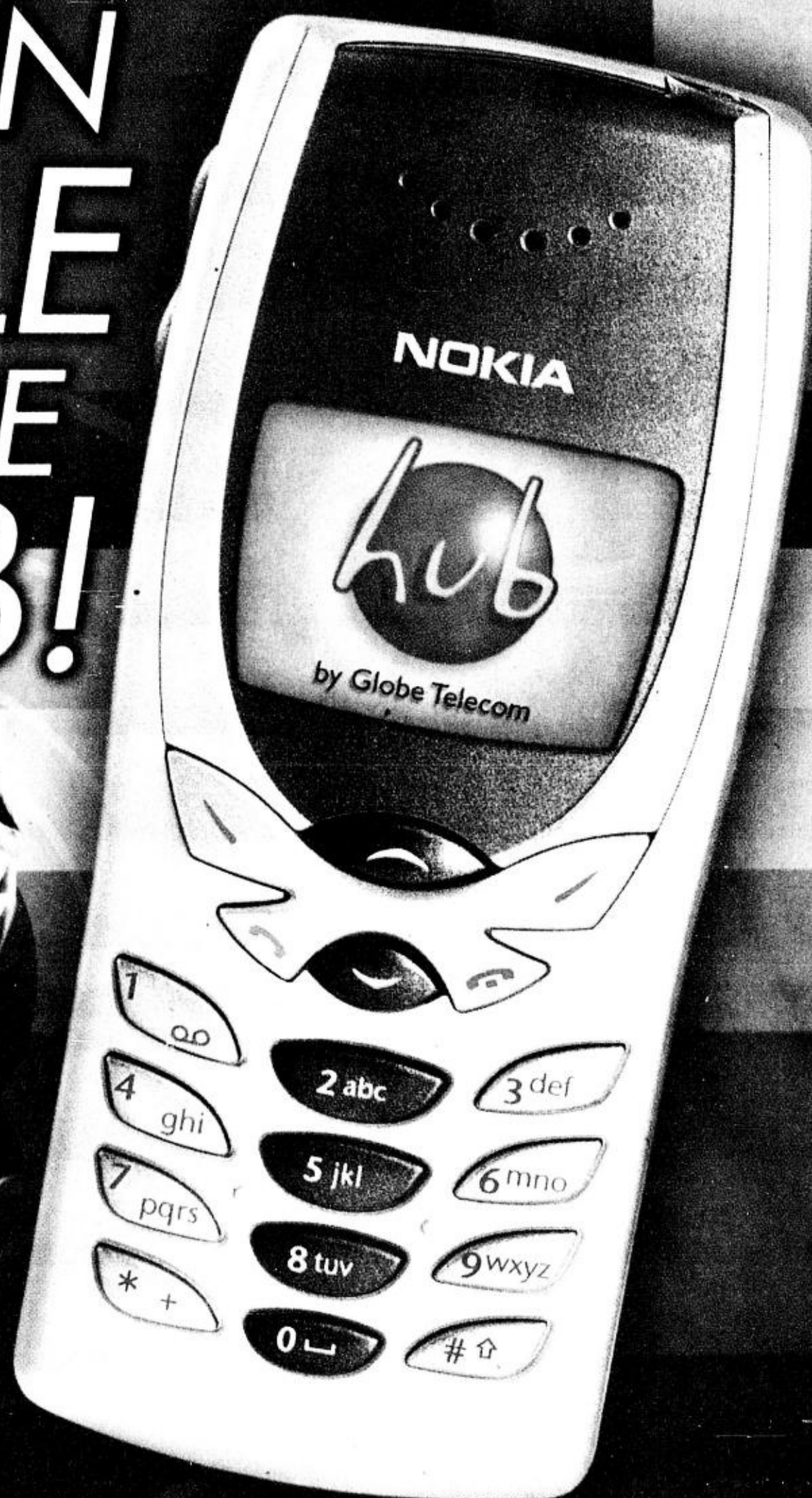
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the pioneering mall changes

Everybody was surprised when they saw the dramatic transformation of an "old" mall. It was as if they have torn down a building and replaced it overnight.

Not even the slightest hint of its former look can be seen. Everything is new at the new StarMall. It is now ready to reassert its presence in the area which it used to dominate.

fresh new look

The mall's new interior and exterior was based on the schematic retail plan formulated by world renowned planning and architectural firm, RTKL. From their schematics, Architect Rolly Mercado and Visual Artist Robert Alejandro

collaborated for the actual execution. Thus a virtually new mall was created, with new merchants, new ambience, new management, new services.

a newer, more convenient way to shop

Starmall's vision is to be the "7-11" of malls in the EDSA-Ortigas area - not as big as the other malls in the area but complete with all your shopping needs. You can go from store to store without walking a kilometer. Its clean, bright and modern ambience makes the shopping ambience even more convenient.

new star-studded line-up

Starmall boasts of an all-new mix of establishments, each already enjoying a solid customer following. Rustan's Expresslane and Robinson's Department Store is Starmall's supermarket and department store anchor. Then there's an array of specialty shops and boutiques like Bench, Human,

NBS Book Express, the P99 store, Rusty Lopez, Delifrance and more

It has five newly-renovated theatres and soon to open will be a FoodCourt which has Bingomania beside it. They will soon be joined by other recreation facilities to provide almost round-the-clock entertainment.

newest haven for bargain seekers: Fashion Station

The entire third floor of Starmall is where you will find 120 Greenhills stores all devoted to give you value for money shopping. They are divided into the Fashion, Telecoms and Computer Stations which when taken together is unique in the retail mix among the malls in the EDSA-Mandaluyong area. The Fashion Station is conveniently accessible through the Starmall MRT Interconnection Bridgeway at the 3rd level.



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BROWNBEAT
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MTV Philippines celebrates its 24-hours a day, 7 days a week presence on UHF Channel 41 by staging a free open-air concert tonight.

Whoop it up at MTV Philippines' "The Rebirth Launch Party at The Fort," starting at 8 p.m. with special appearances by MTV VJs Belinda Pabelo, KC Montero, Sarah Meier and Donita Rose. Party the night away with Atlanta-based band Collective Soul known for their strong, hook-laden pop rock songs. Their latest album "Blender" saw them collaborating with Elton John for the song "Perfect Day."

Jam also with boy band Plus One, which has half-Filipino Jeremy Mhire as one of its members, as they perform their hit song "Last Flight Out" from their debut album "The Promise." They will be performing alongside Philippines' hottest talents like Pops Fernandez, Lani Misalucha, Side A, The Dawn, Eraserheads, Rivermaya, Parokya ni Edgar, Wolfgang, Razorback, Teeth, Sandwich, Slapshot, Brownbeat All Stars, Passage, Barbie's Cradle, Grace Nono, Cynthia Alexander, Kaya and more!

The Philippine Navy Band, Marine Drum Band and Bugle Choir will also be playing the latest MTV hit songs on the MTV charts. Catch the MTV crew in action as they cover the concert live. The event will be aired on "The Rebirth Con-

Celebrity ...

(From page E1)

to herself whenever she wants to stress a point. "I should practice more," Karylle borrows a line from Zsa Zsa. "Para gunaya ako. And I feel it's effective."

She also belies her famous mother's goddess-like aura. "She's really down-to-earth," she avers. "That's one thing that many people don't know about her. We love watching cartoons and talking like the characters. She's very smart and she reads a lot. She's taught me to value education."

Despite the tragedies some celebrity kids experience, Miko believes that there are a lot of advantages to being Ali Sotto's son. He's inherited his mom's optimism, he says. "Positive thinker siya," he adds. "At saka madaldal, kalag. Nakuha ko 'yung pagiging natural niyang tao. She's also taught me to be careful, that I should think first before I do something."

Oyo thinks that he's as funny as his dad. "Makulit siya in person," he notes of the veteran comedian, smirking though that his old man's reputation as a Casanova has made him a Lothario in other people's eyes, too. "Hindi ako babaero," he declares.

Strong-willed person

Like Dina, Oyo feels he's also "maalaga." Danica, meanwhile, credits her mom for making her a strong-willed person and *prangka*. "She always tells us to keep going and to be strong and to never lose hope," she remarks of her mom.

They say the original is always the best. But meeting Karylle, Danica, Oyo and Miko confirms that the chips off the old blocks can be as good as the parents.



KARYLLE. Loves watching cartoons with mom Zsa Zsa Padilla.

MTV Philippines stages free concert tonight

cert Special" on March 17, 1 to 3 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m. with repeats on March 25, 1 to 3 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m.

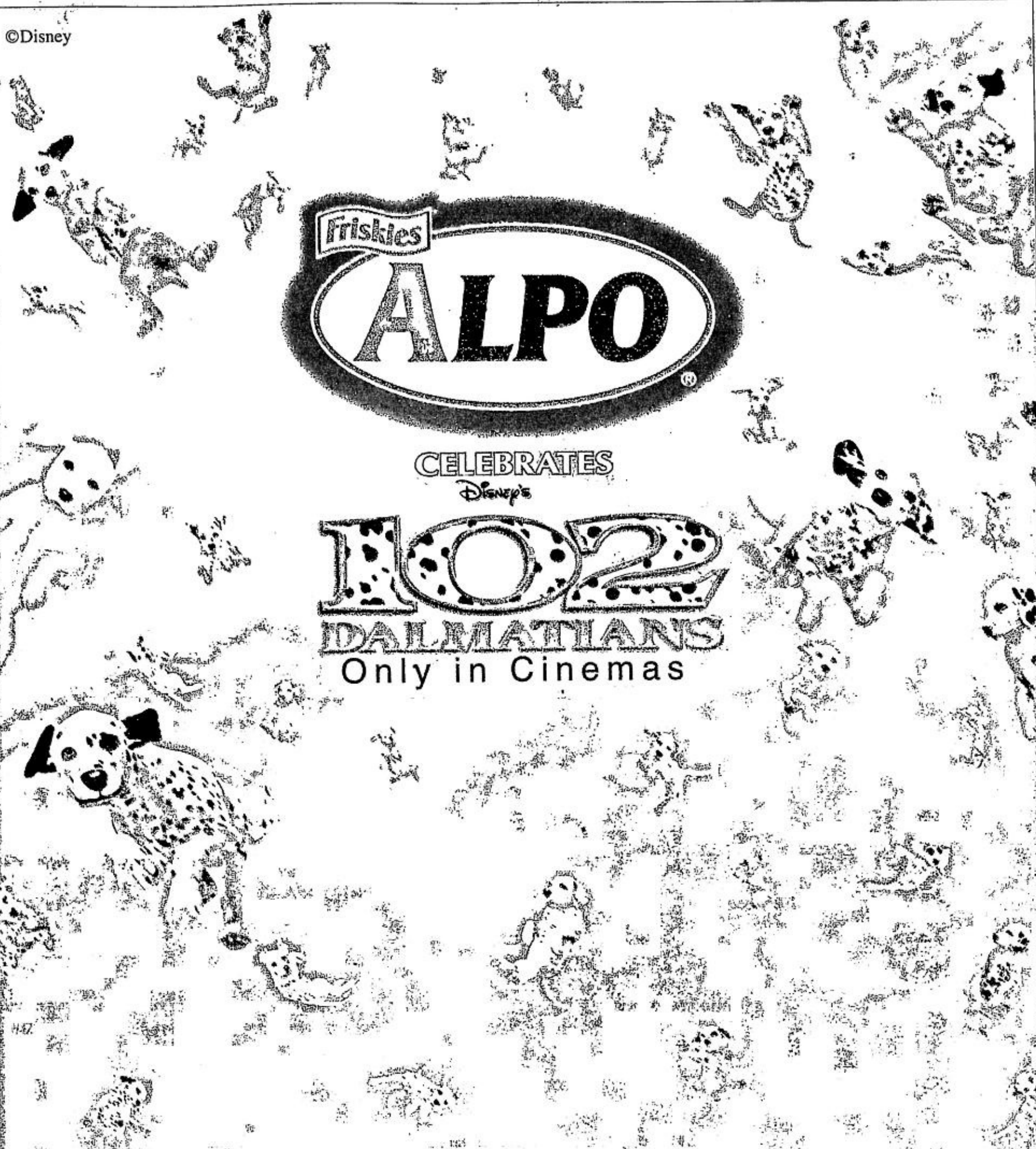
Says Peter Bullard, senior VP and managing director of MTV Southeast Asia: "We are thrilled

to give the Filipinos a chance to do some serious partying to celebrate a truly exciting event: the launch of MTV Philippines on UHF Channel 41."

"MTV has always been about the youth and that is why we have created bigger and better

events and programs to be more in touch with them and to give them what they really want," says Francis Lumen, president and chief executive officer of Nation Broadcasting Corporation and managing director for MTV Philippines.

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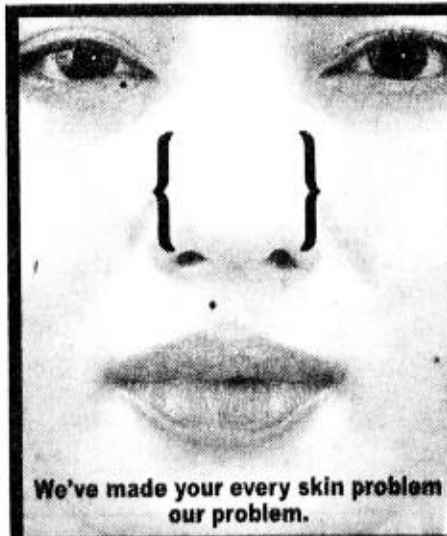


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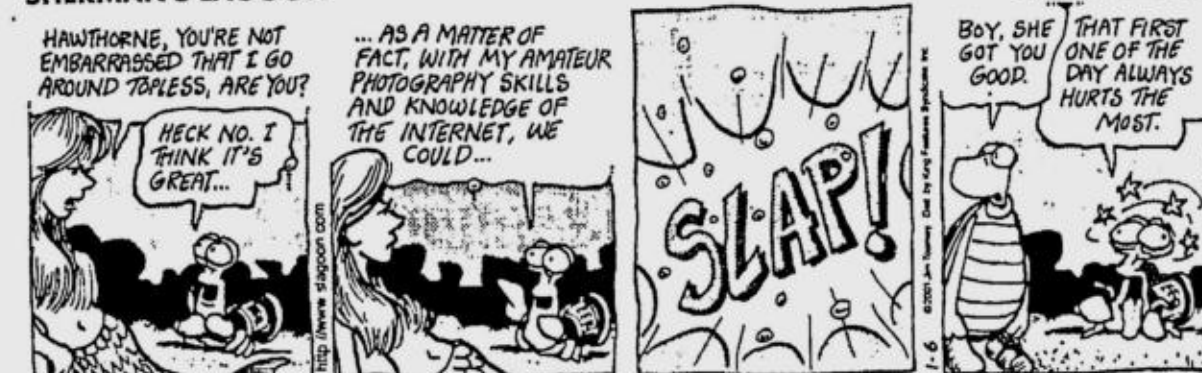
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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alan Bates, Margaret Truman, Ruth Rendell, Michael Jordan, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Denise Richards, Rene Russo, Jerry O'Connell, Lou Diamond Phillips
Happy Birthday: You'll be the center of attention this year with your powerful personality and strong desire to accomplish. You'll be setting trends and turning your dreams into reality. This is a year of change and creativity. Travel and romance should be high on your list to bring you the excitement you need to feel satisfied. Your numbers: 7, 13, 19, 23, 34, 39



ARIES (March 21-April 19): You need to get out with your friends. Take your mind off your worries and get a new perspective on the dilemmas that face you. Talk to someone you trust to get an opinion on your situation.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your emotional swings will get you into big trouble with your mate today. You will hurt someone's feelings without even knowing it if you don't think about the comments you're making.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Pleasure trips will lead to love. You can catch up on overdue correspondence. Self-awareness classes will broaden your scope as to what makes others tick.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make financial deals as long as you use someone else's money. Sudden trips may take you by surprise. Include your mate and mix business with pleasure.



CANCER (June 21-July 22): Include colleagues in your social activities and pick up some valuable information. Make sure you talk to friends or relatives who may need your assistance.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Tempers will get out of hand today. Don't start the argument unless you're prepared to accept irreversible results. Be cautious handling tools, machinery or dangerous objects.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make your own choices. Don't be coerced into doing things that you won't enjoy. You need to spend time with close friends who understand your fears and your upsets.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look into signing those contracts you've been formulating. Moneymaking ventures look interesting, but don't put all your eggs in one basket.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Evading issues will backfire today. Lay your cards on the table and don't back down just to spare someone's feelings. The truth must be spoken.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't get trapped in the melodramas that other people stage. You have enough on your plate emotionally, and it's time to do a little soul-searching regarding your motives. If you aren't happy with your mate, say so.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Investments appear dubious. Be cautious whom you trust with your hard-earned cash. Don't be too eager to lend money or possessions to others. You will lose your friendship as well as your cash.



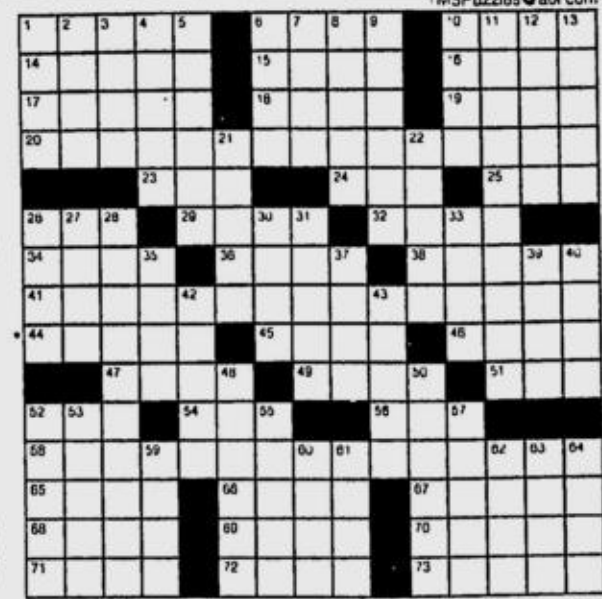
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Romance will unfold if you participate in social events that include people who work in the same industry. Attending conventions will be more beneficial than you anticipated.

Birthday Baby: You are eager to accomplish and quick to start. You set your mind on something and are relentless in your pursuits. You are creative in finding solutions to any problems you encounter.

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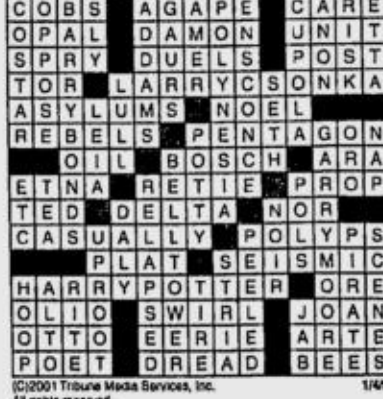
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19 Kampuchea's neighbor
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25 Author of "The Daughter of Time"
26 Shade tree
29 Served perfectly
32 Sound rebound
34 Aloha in Genoa
36 "Exodus" writer
38 Tackle-box items
41 JFK
44 SF griddler
45 Sicilian erupter
46 Charlatan
47 Uppity one
49 Mythical monster
51 Once called
52 Type of grass
54 Expected
56 Le Gallienne or Gabor
58 JFK
59 Unencumbered
60 Midday
67 Lid
68 Latin & others
69 Montreal ballplayer
70 Inter-team action
71 St. Louis pros
72 Hair colorings
73 Reason
- DOWN**
1 "Mona..."
2 Opposed to
3 One pressing a suit?
4 Nonsense
5 Lady of Spain
6 Flutter about
7 Sitarist
8 Shankar
9 Foretokens
10 "The... of the Red Death"
11 Cause of a Macy's riot?
12 Of a Roman guard
13 Solo
14 Lichen-covered
15 Happen again
16 Napoleon
17 Solo's org.
18 MBA class
19 Leslie Caron role
20 Prevailing current of thought
21 Gaelic tongue
22 Same again
23 Snit
24 Kilt
25 Going for a...
26 Screen siren
27 Sommer
28 Hook's right-hand man
29 Wear away
30 Nostrils
31 Torched
32 Ousts
33 Bid
34 Way from a man's heart
35 Beatty and Bunline
36 Thicket unit
37 Love deeply
38 Gibson and Tills
39 Lasso
40 Son of Seth
41 Writer Hunter
42 Beatty and Bunline
43 Thicket unit



By Randall J. Hartman Escondido, CA

1/4/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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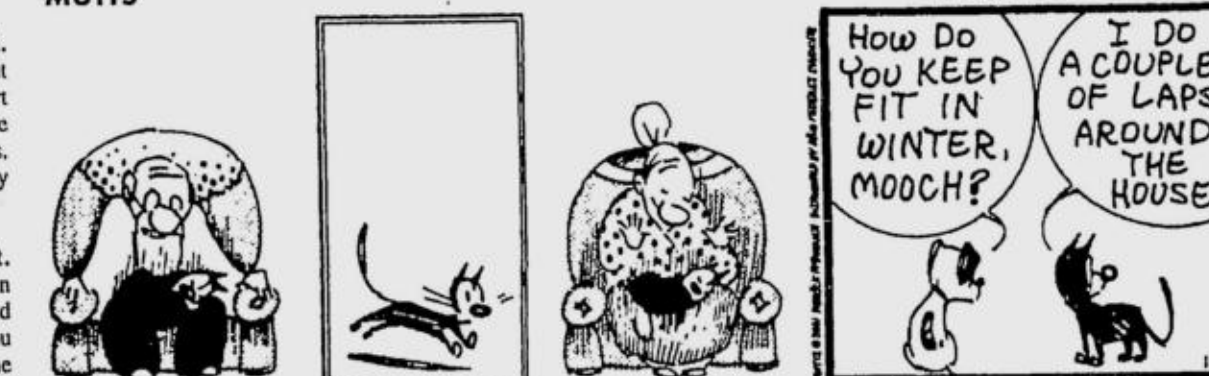
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BY DANIEL SHELTON



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Eric Celerio pays tribute to famous dad



MAGDANGAL beside her life-size standee.

Jolina rocks Metropolis mall

JOLINA Magdangal's "Red Alert: All Hits and Dance Remixes," her latest album under Star Records, sold thousands of copies at its Metropolis mall show launch in Alabang recently.

Over 10,000 fans and music lovers attended to see Jolina perform. The album, as the title itself implies, is a remix of Jolina's greatest hits. Since this album is an all-dance recording, we can expect a new dance step that will be introduced in Jolina's latest music video. The MTV is co-produced with Road Runner so we can expect state of the art and cutting edge special effects from the video.

Funky look

Jolina rocked the mall and brought the house down with her highly charged production numbers and of course, her funky new look. Jolina's costumes in the album (all six sets) were created by Boying Eustaquio and the album goes with a special tin can as part of its special packaging.

The autograph signing took 3 1/2 hours, making the affair one of the most successful launches of Star Records.

MUSICIAN Eric Celerio is living proof that the saying "like father, like son" is not just a trite expression but has a ring of truth to it. His debut album under Star Records, "An Ode to My Father," pays tribute to his dad, National Artist Levi Celerio.

Like his father, Eric is a dedicated and talented disciple of music. A pianist, keyboardist, guitarist, and vocalist rolled into one, Eric is not at all a neophyte in the music industry since he has performed in major music halls in key cities in the United States and Asia.

US resident

Eric is a resident of the US and he obtained his degree in music from New York City's prestigious Queen's College.

"I think I am very privileged to have studied in Juilliard and at the Grand Conservatory of Music because their curriculum is the best in the world," says Eric.

"The discipline that I got from this institution helped me a lot in my craft as a musician. *Ibang klase ang training dun sa New York. Talagang malaking challenge ang na-experience ko doon pero sulit naman kasi magagaling lahat ang mga teachers ko.*" Eric adds speaking without the usual American twang.

In New York, Eric had had the chance to be one of the session musicians of Latin superstar Christina Aguilera, Alex Mostly of Lisa Lisa, and our very own Nora Aunor

when she held a show there a few years back. Moreover, Eric was also included in Peabo Bryson's roster of sessionists in his concert in Japan.

Though some may find Eric as rather lucky since his musicality as a professional artist is derived from the center of the arts, Eric does not agree a hundred percent.

Sacrifice

"Of course I am lucky to have studied in New York and I think after 25 years of residence there, it's safe for me to say that I am in one way or the other established there as a musician. However not being able to play here in the Philippines let alone being recognized in my own country is a huge sacrifice in itself."

This is why he is trying his luck here in the Philippines via his "An Ode to My Father" album. As the title of the album implies, Eric aims to honor his *tatang* Levi Celerio in this one of a kind compilation that documents our National Artist's life's work and several original compositions of Eric himself.

Like any son of a famous artist, Eric openly admits that in spite of his numerous achievements, he is still living under the shadow of his *Tatang*. People would always refer to him as the son of the great Levi Celerio "I am honored to be recognized as the son of *Tatang* but wouldn't it be nice for me to be known because I have

this talent to offer and not just because I'm *Tatang's* son? But hey, what can I say, I'm proud to be his son no matter what happens."

"An Ode to My Father" contains 12 tracks of easy listening music. Some of the tracks in the album are "Kahit Konting Pagtingin," "Dahil sa Isang Bulaklak" and "Gaano Ko Ikaw Kamahal." It also features Eric in vocals in the tracks "Believe Me," "Time," "Count the Ways" and "Love for Real" which he composed with his wife, Gwen Zemana, helping with the lyrics.

Eric describes his singing as simple and light, similar to that of Eric Clapton's. "I'm more of a musician but I also had performance training and that includes singing."

And indeed, it is his singing talent that sets him apart from other musicians. More than his instrumental pieces, Eric is also capable of coming up with vocal materials.

Compromise

Eric is not afraid nor hesitant to compromise with Star Records in terms of the marketing requirements of his album like making some of the tracks a bit more commercial.

"If I want to succeed here in the Philippines, I have to give my listeners what they want. But of course, I will still retain my musicality as an artist. It will still be my music which they will hear but it is slightly altered for commercial purposes."



ERIC with father Levi Celerio.

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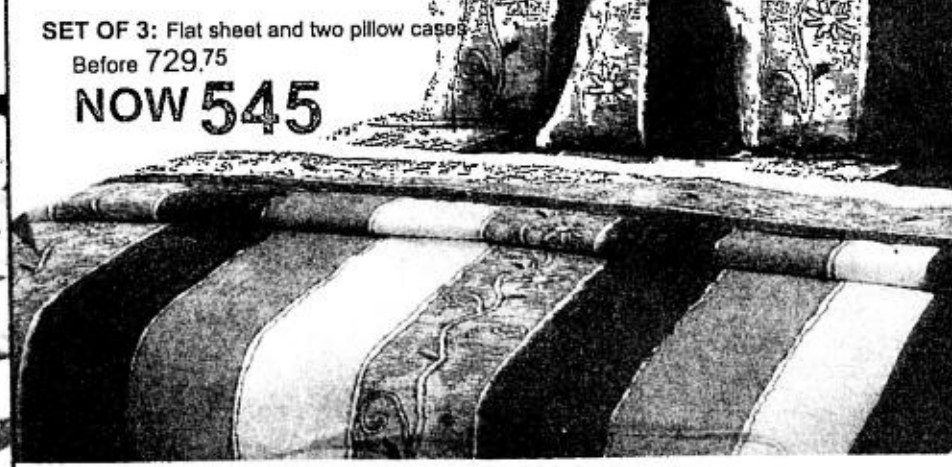
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Saturday SPECIAL

Why it's hard to make Janno Gibbs laugh

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

JANNO Gibbs ventured into green humor in the movie "Juan and Ted" with partner Bayani Agbayani. The movie apparently clicked because he's back with more sexually suggestive humor in "Tusong Twosome." He plays a con-man in Manila who victimizes Andrew E, a naïve *probinsyano* who comes to the big city to try his luck. Later on, the two end up as partners-in-crime. The movie also includes a scheming syndicate boss, two rich and pretty girls (Joanne Quintas and newcomer Victoria London) who get kidnapped, and two accidental heroes who rescue them from the bad guys.

Gossip columns

Victoria landed in the gossip columns recently because she was supposed to have asked for alcohol after a kissing scene with Janno. The singer admits the incident happened but explains that Victoria meant it as a joke. She was supposedly teased by the crew after the two kissed and got back at them at the expense of Janno. So all's well that ends well. At least, that's what Janno says.

Andrew E has made a name for himself in the movies as a comedian specializing in toilet humor as well as sexually suggestive jokes. So, do we expect Janno to drop his squeaky-clean image and become a clone of the composer of "Humanap Ka ng Panget"?

Not exactly, says Janno. The singer was hesitant at first to get his feet wet in the murky pool of sex humor but his producers told him this was what the movie audience liked. He finally agreed on condition that the humor overpowered the sexual element. During the filming, they would rehearse the lines and made sure they were funny. If Janno didn't find the lines or gags funny or they didn't get a reaction from the cast and crew, they would make revisions until the laughter came. He clarifies, though, that his latest movie is not as risqué as "Booba," the Rufa Mae Quinto starrer. Viva Films is hoping for a PG-13 rating from the MTRCB, says Janno.

Unlike Andrew, however, Janno has no plans of recording naughty songs. His next project is an album of duets with the country's reigning divas. The list includes Regine Velasquez, Jaya, Kuh Ledesma, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Lani Misalucha, Pops Fernandez, Pilita Corrales and possibly, Sharon Cuneta. Eighty percent of the materials will be revivals. He intends to compose a few originals.

Deadpan humor

He also does not intend to do off-color jokes in his concerts like Rico J does. The kind of humor the audience enjoys in his live shows is usually delivered deadpan so no one realizes he has delivered a punch line until much later. This kind of humor is just right for Janno, who says it's hard for anyone to make him laugh.

"Mahirap akong patawanin. So it's easy to put on a serious face when I'm delivering a funny line. Kasi, if the joke doesn't work, I can always say it wasn't meant to be funny," says Janno.

So who can make him laugh? He names Ogie Alcasid and Bayani Agbayani, actors he has worked with in previous movies. Then, he mentions the straight drama he did for Regal Films where he co-starred with Marilyn Reynes. He winces as he recalls watching the movie and comments that he has far to go before he becomes a dramatic actor.

Janno is also very serious when he's not performing onstage. When we speak to him during the "Tusong Twosome" presscon, there are no traces of the funny concert artist we watched sometime ago. Save for a few cracks, Janno sounds more like a stock market analyst than a comedian. He explains that in his family, it's his dad, Ronaldo Valdez, who's the comedian. Janno is the silent one. That's understandable. Most comedians we talk to are generally serious when they're not performing onstage.

Source of insecurity

We ask him if his height was a source of insecurity in his career and private hoping to get some wisecracks, but we failed. Initially, he explains his size made him feel insecure but eventually, he overcame the insecurity. He thinks his stature is a big plus in his career. "I wouldn't be where I am now if I weren't this short," he states.

What about when he was courting Bing? Was his height a liability? "No," he answers with a "yabang" smile.

Andrew E has made a name for himself in the movies as a comedian specializing in toilet humor as well as sexually suggestive jokes. So, do we expect Janno to drop his squeaky-clean image and become a clone of the composer of 'Humanap Ka ng Panget'?



JANNO AND ANDREW E. Accidental heroes.

How to get pogi points on V-Day

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Boob-tube boobos

HOST: Your department head has been criticized for constantly changing his mind on his stand on important issues. What do you have to say about that?

Guest: That's not true at all. For what I know, his answer which was yesterday remains as of yesterday! (Huh?)

Host: Bakit kayo lumipat sa opposition side?

Guest: Kasi, nakita ko na hindi natupad ang pangako ng pangulong dating Estrada. (Ano daw?)

Host: Your schedule is so busy these days. Nakakapahinga ka pa ba?

Starlet: Yes, it's only a matter of good scheduling. With that, nakaka-coop up pa rin naman ako. (Coop? Ooops!)

Host: What's my fortune this month? Can you tell me?

Fortune teller: Well, I—

Host: Come on, I can take it!

Fortune teller: Well, you will be going to face reality of the problem about which is the problem you are now interacting! (Uh, please translate?)

Host: How was your surprise birthday party?

Star: Well, I was really surprised!

Host: That's wonderful! Who planned it?

Star: Oh, so many. But I want to specially thank my friends Marlo and John—they are two of the big planners behind my back! (Sige na nga...)

Host: Bed-wetting is a problem for children, so what can parents do to help?

Guest: They can control their kids' drinking before going to sleep.

Host: How?

Guest: Basta, bawasan lang nila ang ininom nilang ihi. (Yuck!)

Host: What is your platform for the coming elections?

Candidate: We want to serve the needs of the poor.

Host: In what way?

Candidate: Good education for everybody—bigger salaries for workers—and there is also a great need for socialite housing! (Sosyal!)

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



Movies on TV this weekend

On the HBO channel: Saturday, Feb. 17, 6 a.m., "Farewell My Love." 7:30 a.m., "Stolen Women." 9 a.m., "Singles." 10:30 a.m., "The Dukes of Hazzard: Hazzard in Hollywood." 12 noon, "Knocking on Death's Door." 1:45 p.m., "Message in a Bottle." 4 p.m., "Passport to Paris." 5:30 p.m., "Heart and Souls." 7:15 p.m., "Above the Law." 9 p.m., "The Corruptor." 10:45 p.m., "Cape Fear." 12:50 a.m., "Wag the Dog." 2:30 a.m., "Why Do Fools Fall In Love." 4:30 a.m., "Black and White."

Sunday, Feb. 18, 6 a.m., "First Monday in October." 7:45 a.m., "Walking Across Egypt." 9:30 a.m., "Uncommon Valor." 11:15 a.m., "Dangerous Beauty." 1 p.m., "Gremlins 2: The New Batch." 3 p.m., "I Married A Monster." 4:30 p.m., "Swing Shift." 6:15 p.m., "On Hostile Ground." 8 p.m., "The River." 10 p.m., "Big Daddy." 11:35 p.m., "Meet Joe Black." 2:30 p.m., "Action 07: Strong Sexual Content." 3 a.m., "Gardens of Stone." 5 a.m., "Under Hellgate Bridge."

On the Cinemax channel: Saturday, Feb. 17, 6 a.m., "The Shamrock Conspiracy." 7:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets Ep. 7: Leading Animals." 8:15 a.m., "The Big Lebowski." 9:45 a.m., "Prisoner of Love." 11:15 a.m., "The Wogboy." 12:45 p.m., "Future Kick." 2 p.m., "Giant." 5:15 p.m., "Fergie and Andrew: Behind the Palace Doors." 6:45 p.m., "Cinema Secrets Ep. 6: Impossible Worlds." 7:15 p.m., "The Last Innocent Man." 9 p.m., "Airspeed." 10:30 p.m., "Cruel Intentions." 12:05 a.m., "The Borrowers." 1:35 a.m., "Excalibur." 4 a.m., "Prisoner of Love." 5:30 a.m., "Cinema Secrets Ep. 8: Cinema Super Spies."

Sunday, Feb. 18, 6 a.m., "East of Eden." 8 a.m., "Made Men." 9:30 a.m., "Neil Simon's The Odd Couple, 2." 11 a.m., "Descending Angel." 12:45 p.m., "The Substitute, 2: School's Out." 2:15 p.m., "Cinema Secrets Ep. 8: Cinema Super Spies." 2:45 p.m., "Stranger Than Fiction." 4:30 p.m., "The Last Witness." 6 p.m., "The Adventures of Brisco County Jr." 7:30 p.m., "New Eden." 9 p.m., "Idle Hands." 10:30 p.m., "Made Men." 12 midnight, "Blowback." 1:30 a.m., "Dead on the Money." 3 a.m., "The Substitute, 2: School's Out." 4:30 a.m., "A Raisin in the Sun."

GMA announces major programming changes

BY VERON DIONISIO

GMA is a relatively young network as far as local programming is concerned. It only started producing local shows in 1993. "So kung tutuusin, we're still a baby in that aspect compared to other networks," says GMA executive Wilma Galvante. Despite their late entry, GMA has emerged as one of the two leading networks in the country today. To strengthen its position of leadership, the network's programming department has come up with changes in its schedule.

Long process

Does it have something to do with the changing of the guard, now that PLDT is about to become the network's majority owner? "Not exactly. The change in management has long been in the drawing board. It was a long process. This move in programming is basically an attempt to address the changing preferences of the audience," explains Galvante.

Central to these programming changes is the inclusion of Lani Misalucha and Jaya and a roster of young show biz entrants in its Sunday nighttime show, "SOP." Misalucha and Jaya join the other seasoned performers on the show like Janno Gibbs, Ogie Alcasid, and Regine Velasquez. For the young viewers, the show features Angelika dela Cruz, Sunshine Dizon, Danica Sotto, Oyo Boy Sotto, Miko Sotto, Karylle (Zsa Zsa Padilla's daughter) and Cogie Domingo.

"We have nothing but praises for Janno and Ogie. This move does not, in any way, cast doubts on their ability to carry the show. We consider them the foundation of the show. Sila ang matibay na poste ng programa," stresses Galvante. "What we're doing now is primarily to support those posts."

With Lani and Jaya in the show, "SOP" has the distinction of being the home of three of the country's so-called top pop divas. Regine, Jaya and Lani, performing together on a weekly basis, will be a welcome treat to Sunday TV viewers. The question is: do Lani and Jaya possess enough mass appeal and



SUNSHINE DIZON. "SOP" regular.

charisma to sustain the audience? Television is a different medium altogether compared to either recording and concert. "They have mass appeal. I do believe their gold and platinum records can attest to that. They top the charts. People buy their records. Masa ang bumibili ng mga plaka nila," replies Galvante.

What they hope to achieve, says Galvante, is to capture a niche of the market who are really looking for fine performances in their Sunday nighttime show.

Hosting style

We've observed that even before these changes were thought of, "SOP" was never wanting in talents. Janno and Ogie have always been consistent and reliable. Their natural flair for comedy gives their hosting styles a spontaneous and refreshing feel. Their good humor has been working to their advantage. They can make people laugh quite effortlessly without resorting to off-color jokes.

However, the rival show rates higher despite its many flaws and mediocre performances. It has captured wider following. Why?

Some industry observers point to the star-building strategies the rival network employs. It utilizes multimedia to pack-

age their new stars. Eventually, when their newcomers become bigger stars, they command a bigger following that translates to wider audience share. So that even if these new entrants may not possess exceptional talents as beginners, the exposure they get from the network's various TV programs and other media forms, develops their on-screen personality and consequently their skills in performing.

GMA, on the other hand, lacks the mechanism to launch its discoveries as multimedia artists. The network's image-making approach needs to be more consistent and holistic if its goal is not just to be the most-awarded media network but also to be among the top-earning corporations in the country. "That's right. We're aware of that shortcoming," admits Galvante. "Hopefully with the changes going on in the network, we can address that. We can assure you that we're definitely considering that factor in planning for the future."

New timeslots

Aside from "SOP," new schedules for other shows were also announced. Old reliables like "Bubble Gang," "Pokemon" and "GMA Love Stories" were moved to

GMA ANNOUNCES/F7

DO YOU TURN YOUR HEAD WHEN SOMEONE SHOUTS

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If you think you're overweight, it's not just your ego you should worry about. Medical research has shown the various links between excess weight, and diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, gallstones, gout, sleep apnea, and certain forms of cancer.

Most people don't understand that obesity is in itself a disease that needs to be cured. Medically, obesity is defined as an excess accumulation of body fat sufficient to endanger health. But because people come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, a weighing scale alone is not a good indication of whether you are overweight or not. A tall person can weigh 150 lbs and still be underweight, while a short person who weighs the same can be overweight.

To get an accurate assessment of your condition, you need to compute your Body Mass Index (BMI). Simply divide your weight in kilograms over your height in meter squared, and you will get your BMI. Using Asian standards, if your BMI is over 23, then you are overweight. You should consult your doctor and ask him or her for advice on a long-term weight management program. Do not resort to purchasing over-the-counter drugs. Advice from experts will help you achieve a healthy weight.

Your doctor can also tell you about a proven treatment for obesity that has benefited more than 8.5 million individuals around the world. This drug has been well-researched by a reputable pharmaceutical company and is backed by clinical studies with proven efficacy and safety for 30 years before it was marketed. This new treatment, which is a lipase inhibitor, cuts down the absorption of dietary fat in the body by up to 30%, allowing for radical improvements in weight loss and weight management programs. And unlike food supplements that claim to work but have no scientific basis, this drug was approved by the FDA in the US as well as the European Union, and our local BFAD (Bureau of Food and Drugs).

Weight management counsellors are also available by phone, from 9 am - 6 pm, Monday to Friday, to help you compute your BMI, and to give advice on how you can avail of a long term weight management program. If you're in Metro Manila, call 899-5955 and a counsellor will be on hand to answer your questions. (Outside Metro Manila, please dial 1-800-1-888-5955).

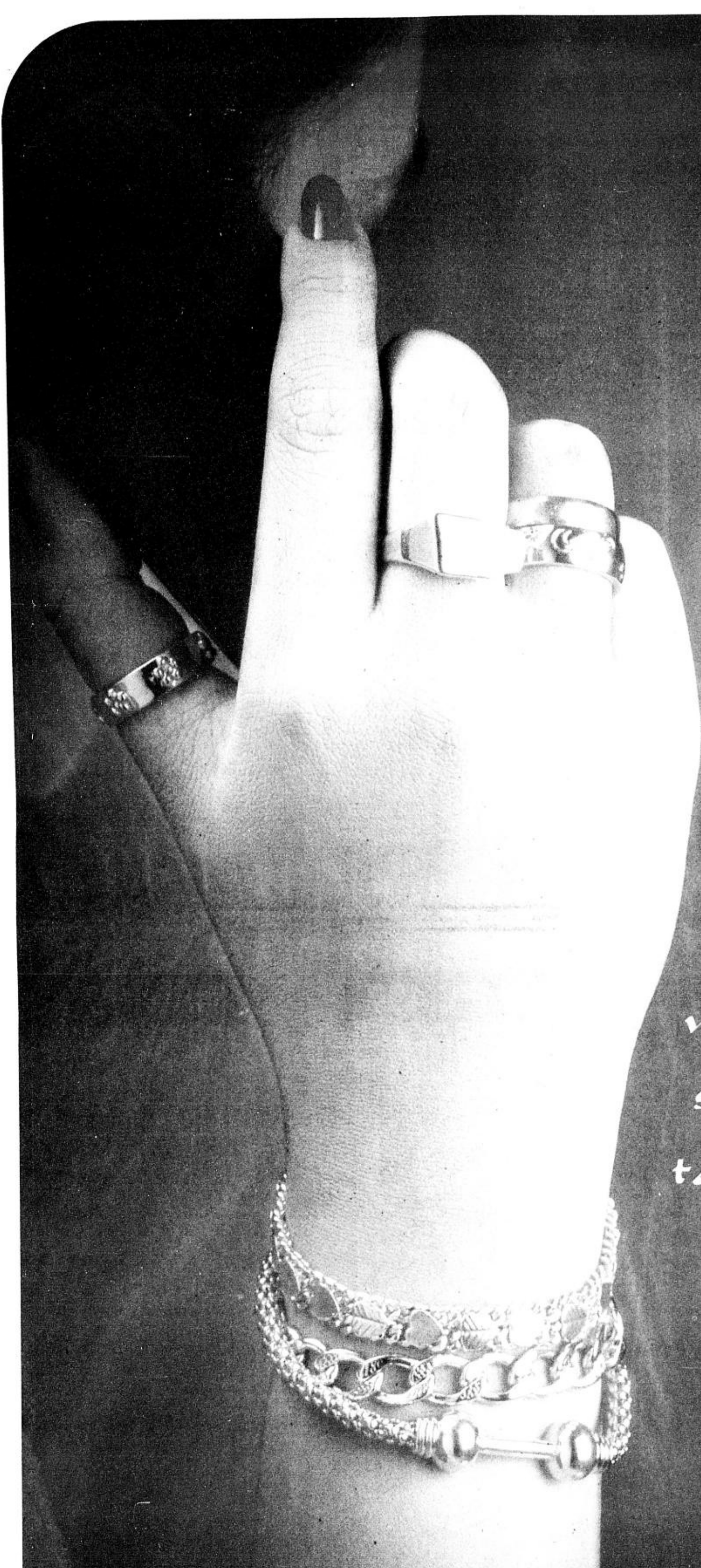
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Things you should know about The Corrs

THE CORRS' Radio provided me with a melodic tune to celebrate the holiday. Andrea, Caroline, Sharon and Jim have the talent to match their good looks. Can you please tell me more about them, personal details if possible. Thanks.—Famar Pangan Santos of Sto. Domingo, Minalin, 2019 Pampanga

Personal facts:

1. Jim Corr plays electric and acoustic guitars, keyboards, and accordion and sings back-up vocals occasionally.
2. Jim smashed his father's brand new Citroen car when he backed up into a post
3. Jim was 13 when he sneaked out of the house and stayed out all night.
4. Jim hates slow moving lifts.

Favorite band

5. Jim's favorite band is the Police.
6. Jim used to have a small eight-track studio.
7. When Sharon was young she had to lock her clothes away because Andrea and Caroline always borrowed them.
8. Sharon's favorite outfit used to be a pair of flares and an action man jumper.

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Mary Ann A. Bautista

9. Sharon hates hotel hairdryers that are stuck in the wall because she can't get enough air from them.
10. Sharon once put Jim's socks on Caroline's nose while she was asleep to wake her up but Caroline remained oblivious to it.
11. Sharon used to work at McManus's in Dundalk with Andrea and Caroline.
12. Sharon used to be a manager of a record shop.
13. Sharon is a big fan of Crowded House.
14. Sharon used to play women's Gaelic football before they formed the Corrs.
15. Sharon became the first Corr millionaire after she received 1,000,000 Turkish pound notes from a friend.

16. Sharon had a schoolgirl crush on soul singer Paul Young.
17. Andrea gets affected and cries whenever she watches heavy, emotional movies like "Leaving Las Vegas," "The Piano," "Midnight Cowboy," "Betty Blue" and "Last Tango in Paris."

Plane trip

18. On her first plane trip, Andrea thought she had to pay for the food.
19. When Andrea was growing up in Ireland she thought that every family also sang and played instruments.
20. Andrea loves porridge and hates 'dirty carpets.'
21. Andrea nearly died of kidney infection when she was born.
22. Andrea used to love listening to Prince but her parents stopped her from listening to him.
23. Andrea was tomboyish as a kid and had cuts and bruises to prove it.

James Steven Ignatius Corr is the eldest and the tallest of the four siblings. He prefers to be known as "Jim" the big brother of his sisters. He



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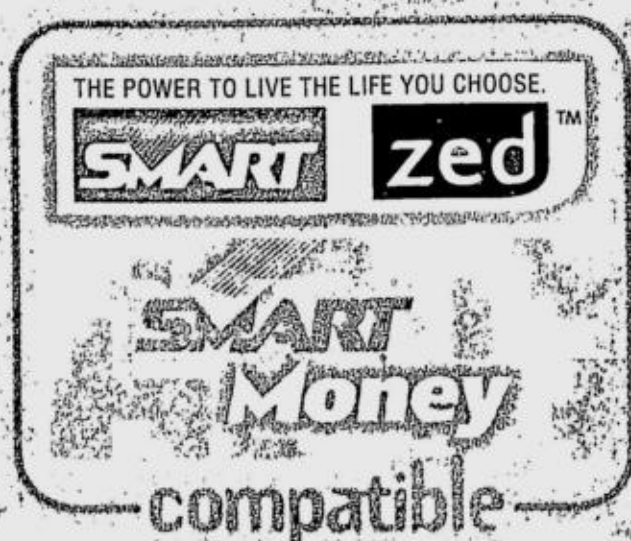


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Lee Robin Salazar takes the road less traveled

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

LOVE, according to dancer-turned-movie actor-turned-recording artist and now theater convert Lee Robin Salazar, is a decision. "Like most things in life, the directions we take are products of the choices we make. And just like the many unexpected twists and turns that we are often faced with, there is no complete assurance that the paths we take are the right ones."

Valuable lessons

But Salazar is unfazed. Over the years, he has learned many valuable lessons which continue to push him to strive for things that he feels are more important and satisfying.

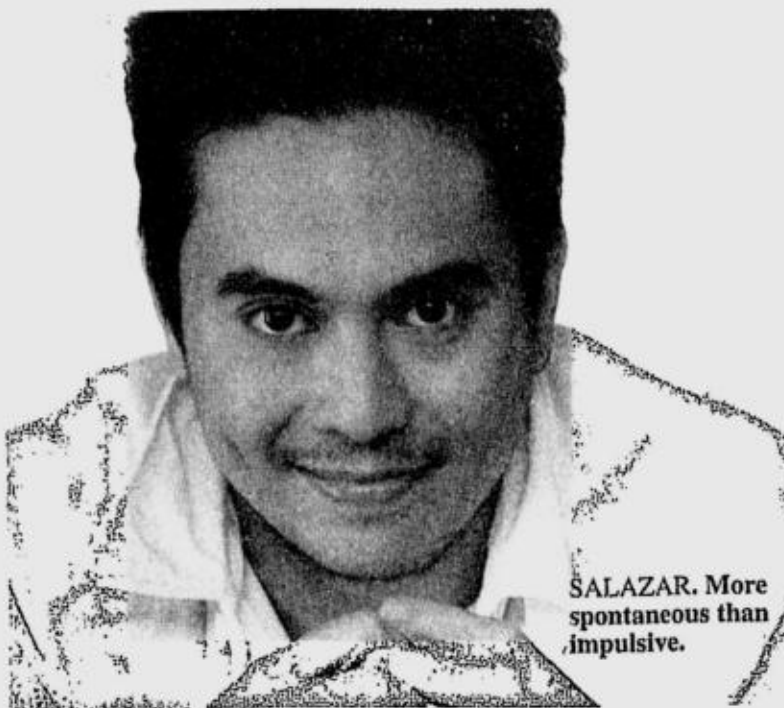
Especially on the love front, where his relatively young heart has undergone a lot of roller-coaster rides. "I have taken a few falls. Some hurt more than the others, but these

shouldn't stop me from moving forward."

His many controversial love anecdotes have landed in gossip columns and he feels that even if the public thinks that his love life is an open book. "There are still a lot of things they don't know about me and the people I have shared romantic relationships with, and I don't really care if they don't find out."

I chanced upon Salazar in the gray sandy shores of Mindoro a few days before Valentine's. He was garbed in a minimalist beach outfit. "It's Rach's opening night," he reminded me, referring to his fiancée Rachel Alejandro who is now in Singapore playing the coveted role of Mimi in the musical production "Rent."

I asked if he's lonely that she's so far away this Valentine's, and he only managed a half smile. "It does



SALAZAR. More spontaneous than impulsive.

get lonely, but that's part of the way things are. Good there's the magic of technology now, texting, you know, so it doesn't feel like she's that far, far away."

It's been three years since both Robin and Rachel's hearts started to skip faster for each other, and after some cool-offs and a major breakup, they're back in each other's arms.

"I love her with a passion," he continues. "She has stuck with me through everything and I appreciate her for that. She could have just turned her back in many of those instances but she always managed to hang in there."

Career decisions

As far as his many career decisions are concerned, Salazar may have shifted his gears too abruptly several times in the past and continues to do so even now, but he doesn't consider himself impulsive. "I think

I'm more spontaneous than impulsive," he intones, "and I like it more like that, that I am free-flowing and unafraid to seize a moment if it comes to me, even unexpectedly."

No doubt, this 24-year-old hunk is a freewheeling spirit. "I like to take risks, you know, to make life a little less predictable and boring, but there is a need to balance things with a lot of calculated moves and logical thinking, too." He also feels the need to try on new adventures every so often.

Salazar arrived at the beach almost midnight in a motorized banca, braving the unpredictable waves of the Batangas-Mindoro route for almost 100 minutes. Most people would wait until morning but Salazar decided otherwise and felt he needed to flirt with nature that particular night. "These are life's little adventures that remain in my memory bank

LEE/F7

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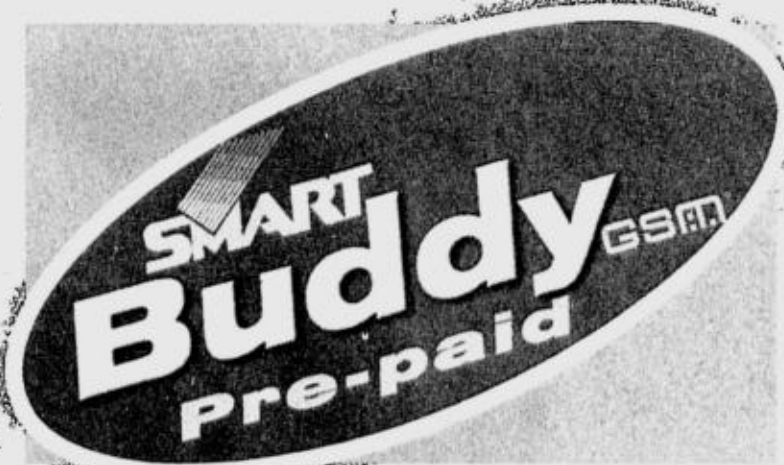


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Makati Boys

IT'S funny what politics can do to people. Last week, I focused on show biz personalities turned political rivals Nora Aunor and Imelda Papin. For sometime now, the two have been fueling a loud buzz around tinseltown since Nora announced her political plans in Bicol, supposedly the turf of Imelda (current vice governor of Camarines Sur).

Another feud

This week, I zero in on another feud brewing between Makati councilor Rico J. Puno and Makati Vice Mayor Edu Manzano. Both talents of my good friends-managers Norma Japitana (Puno) and June Rufino (Manzano), Edu and Rico have apparently engaged themselves in a saucy word war on print that has continued to escalate especially now that the campaign period has begun.

First, about their managers. I became acquainted with Norma by virtue of her being good friends with my sister, a media practitioner. She was always present during family gatherings and so it was inevitable that we got to know each

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday



other sooner or later.

Than as now, Norma has always been a mystery to me. Though we have become friends through the years, her personal life remains a puzzle to me. I have never heard of her being married nor having a special someone in life. She certainly never brought a partner to any of our family gatherings. If she didn't go by herself, it was always her *alagas* who'd accompany her whenever she graced our parties. Despite this, I have never felt the need to know more about her because whatever it was she revealed about herself was enough to forge a friendship between us.

As a person, Norma is very ladylike and well respected by everyone anywhere she goes. She's what you'd call an *elitista*, a jetsetter who frowns on vulgarity. That's why I was kind of surprised when he took in Rico J. Puno under her wings. Rico has a reputation that's almost legendary when it comes to cracking green jokes. I could never associate Norma with Rico especially during Rico's humble beginnings.

As for June, I met her during my Broadcast City days. We were both under Kitchie Benedicto at the time: she was a member of the production staff and I was talent and staff for radio and television. Plus, her husband used to be executive producer of my former show "Nothing But the Truth" so we'd often crossed paths until we became friends.

As with Norma and Rico, I never thought June would become manager to Edu or anyone for that matter. I always saw June as the kind of person who had a very short patience. When it comes to herself, June is very unlike Norma in that her life is an open book as far as the indus-



MANZANO AND PUNO. Their word war continues.

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try is concerned. June has been through a lot and many of the shoulders she had cried on can attest to this from the press people right down to actors.

Aggressive person

If anybody had told me before that Rico was running for public office, I would've looked that person in the eye and ask if we were referring to the same Rico J. Puno. I knew Rico as an aggressive person but I never thought he'd be bold enough to aspire for a seat in the city council.

I must admit Rico has definitely learned the ropes as a politician, I sometimes have a hard time reconciling in my mind that this councilor was once acknowledged as "dean" of *bastos* jokes.

I remember attending one of his shows in Hotel Rembrandt where he cracked a joke about a personality who happened to be in the audience that night. I could imagine how appalled that person was—I mean, I certainly was. Even as the audience laughed at Rico's joke, I cringed in my seat realizing that there were kids among the audience.

So I wrote about it in this column. And the next time I attended one of Rico's shows, he called me onstage after cracking a joke saying, "Is Inday around?" which proved that he read that column.

Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against Rico. In fact, I like him as a friend and as an artist. I like some of his songs like "Kapalaran" and "May Bukas Pa." One never gets tired of listening to his hits.

And through the years, it has become apparent that though Rico has toned down his green asides, he is still the same Rico I met and people loved years ago. He may not be as handsome as most actors but Rico possesses a certain appeal which manifested itself naturally especially after he became famous. Call it confidence or whatever but it was there—that X factor that made the *colegialas* of his time go gaga over him.

As a person, I know Rico loves all things beautiful—especially women. One time, I attended a fiesta where Rico was also a guest. He immediately approached me minutes after my arrival telling me of this beautiful girl he was dating at the time. He was so proud to have accompanied a beautiful girl to the point that he sounded like his date was a trophy of sorts.

Meanwhile, Edu Manzano or Doods was initially known as "Mr. Vilma Santos." Being the former husband of the Star for All Season at the height of Vilma's career, Edu expectedly assumed a personality under the shadow of her more famous wife.

Doting idol

I first saw Edu during the baptism of one of Vilma's fans' daughter in Pasig. Ever the doting idol, Vilma attended the fan's daughter's christening where I too was invited. At the time, I had heard rumors that Vi was head over heels in love with an Edu Manzano.

When I finally saw Doods, I understood why. Edu is handsome, a man with breeding who looks every inch a gentleman. Although I thought they were a perfect pair, history later proved that neither Edu's pretty face nor charm was enough to save his marriage to Vi.

I remember attending the birthday party of their son Lucky in Manila Polo Club a few years after Vi and Doods got married. While there, I saw Edu trying hard to be inconspicuous in the corner, obviously disinterested in associating with the press people who were all crowding around Vilma. From the start, Edu had the reputation of shying away from media and rare were the times when he'd grant interviews let alone guest on television shows.

When I found my chance, I approached Edu. And what he disclosed to me saddened me at the time, words I could never forget: "I'm leaving for the States. She can manage." Edu said, referring to Vi. Apparently, his relationship with Vi had been experiencing rocky times aggravated by Vilma's stature as a super popular actress which apparently got to Edu's male ego.

Later, when Doods and Vi called it quits, Edu was perennially linked to a lot of other women. For a time, he also got into a relationship with Diamond Star Maricel Soriano although that, too, fizzled out.

When Edu became vice mayor, the rumors about his girls continued to surface interspersed with news of Doods' violent ways (he allegedly picks a fight) whenever he gets irked.



ANGELIKA. Will star in a primetime soap.

GMA announces . . .

(From page F2)

new timeslots. New shows like the drama anthology, "Larawan: A Special Drama Engagement" and Michael V's "Bitoy's World" were also launched.

A still untitled new primetime soap, topbilled by GMA's best bffs for stardom, Angelika dela Cruz and Sunshine Dizon, will be aired a couple of months from now. Angelika and Sunshine were first seen together in "Umulan Ma't Umaraw," a consistent top-rating drama serial aired every Monday. "The show was a testing ground for the two young stars. When the show rated, we thought a new program could be developed to sustain people's interest in them," says Galvante.

Comeback

The viewers can also expect the return of the trendsetting "GMA Telesine," the first to feature some noteworthy telemovies and brilliant performances from some of the industry's finest actors and directors. But why revive a program when they could conceptualize a new one? Aren't they afraid that the show may have lost its appeal? "Ang show, parang tao rin 'yan e. Kailangan ipinapahinga para makaisip ng mga panibagong ideas. Para makagawa ng mga bagong konsepto," Galvante points out. "We believe that 'Telesine' can still give the viewers the same level of creativity it has become known for."

GMA braces itself for tougher competition ahead. That can only be good news for the viewing audience which expects great shows from the two leading networks.

Things you should know about The Corrs

(From page F4)

started the band with his sisters. He was even dreaming of family rock stardom while Andrea and Caroline were still in school and Sharon was working in a record store. He remembers standing on tiptoes as a kid to hit the keys of the old piano in his bedroom. His father, Gerry taught him how to play the piano. His next door neighbor taught him how to play the guitar. He confesses that he can not live without the guitar and owns several acoustic guitars.

Catholic school

He went to the De La Salle Brothers Catholic school but since he loved music so much, his studies suffered while his sisters consistently got good grades. He got involved with the "bad crowd" though he never got involved in thefts. He fascination with electronics made him consider making electronics his career but after attending music college, he realized that he could not turn his back on music.

At 15, James began performing with his parents in Dundalk's bars and clubs and

eventually played with the Irish traditional singer Dolores Keane.

He admits that he's a deep thinker. "I'm interested in Philosophy and the meaning of life. If you want something bad enough then you should make positive moves to get it."

He refuses to be called the band leader because they make decisions collectively. "We decide everything together and any fool knows you don't tell Irish girls what to do. I'm standing in the shadows of my sisters. I'm here to make the girls look good. I am often literally pushed to one side by fans eager to get to them."

James confirms that he is a resident party animal. While his sisters are sleeping, he's checking the local nightlife. But as a musician, he's laid-back. He dated a former Miss Ireland, Andrea Roche, who looks like his sister, Andrea. The relationship ended soon after the death of Jean Corr but rumors persist that he has rekindled his relationship with her. He would like his children to have careers that will utilize their talents. "Having a job that is

your hobby is the ultimate thing that a person can do."

Violin lessons

Sharon Helga Corr learned how to play the violin when she was six. She took violin lessons from a priest, Father McNally and he instilled in her a deep passion for classical music. She went to Dun Lughaidh Convent and was suspended twice for skipping school. She feels that her most rebellious habit today would be smoking and drinking coffee.

Caroline Georgine Corr plays the drums, bodhran and the piano. She learned how to play the drums at 18 when her boyfriend taught her. He showed her the basic beats but all her training happened live. "It was a nightmare. I was only playing for a short time and I was being criticized for it. Luckily, people never notice my mistakes or they're too polite to point them out."

Caroline's mobile phone gives her extreme comfort and security along with her jumper. She hates cleaning mirrors and bathrooms which toothpaste mess. She

likes the bands Garbage, Radiohead and Oasis along with Luciano Pavarotti.

Caroline is dating "Frank," property developer for two years. She likes him because he's willing to get on a plane and visit her anywhere.

Main lyricist

Andrea is the youngest. She plays the tin whistle and is the main lyricist in the group. She also went to the Dun Lughaidh Convent and was called the brainiest among her siblings. She was voted the sexiest woman in Ireland but she says that she can be extremely sensitive. "I make a lot out of a simple situation but I'm an eternal optimist. I'm the messy one in the family."

Andrea's worst habit is sucking her thumb and losing things. She feels that the tin whistle is the perfect instrument for her because it's the cheapest instrument to replace. She doesn't have "someone" in her life because when she takes time off from her busy schedule, she spends it with her family and friends.

Lee Robin Salazar . . .

(From page F5)

for a long time," he adds.

I noticed that there's a stud on his nose and he excitedly recounted the pain he had to go through to have that half-an-inch-thick on his nose. Aside from a nose stud and some earrings, Salazar also has a pierced umbilicus and tattoos on his pelvis and deltoid epidermis. "I guess my threshold for pain has increased over the years," he kids.

So is his penchant for other forms of art, as his beach buddy and musical composer Junji Arias insists. "Robin has a knack for composing. He has depth," Arias says. "We were all so happy when he won the Aliw's Best New Artist award," he adds.

But lately, Salazar has been bitten hard by the theater bug. "Lalim ng kagat," he winks, "baon na baon."

Good reviews

I heard good reviews when he appeared in Dramatis Personae's "Othello." When I finally saw him in "Hurly Burly" two years ago, I thought he had promise. His pres-

ence on stage was big and sweeping. From then on, he has not stopped romancing the stage.

His current theatrical outing is the Actors' Actor Company's staging of Alan Ball's "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," where he is the lone male character in a cast composed of Dindi Gallardo, Kate Fernandez, Miren Alvarez and Cris Villonco. The show will have a repeat this weekend at the Music Museum, after which Salazar is setting his sights on a possible role in "Rent" when it goes back to the Manila stage on August. "I might play Benny, the landlord, and I'm looking forward to it."

Salazar might have shied away from the movies for the meantime, but he's not regretted his decision. "I like to do other things like traveling. I'm planning to see Europe with Rachel this summer."

Lee Robin Salazar is happy. "Very happy," he says. For the next few days, he's looking forward to just lie on the beach to get a good tan on his really buffed physique.

Makati Boys

(From page F6)

Edu, however, has never admitted to anything and remains with his longtime girlfriend to this day.

As for Rico, talks about his "love for women" continue to abound to this day although a little tamer in version and nature. People from the industry often joke that one can tie a skirt on a post and Rico is bound to make his moves on it.

Approachable

The difference between Rico and Doods is that Rico is more transparent. What you see is what you get when it comes to him. Rico is more approachable while Edu would rather remain distant. And although Doods has his share of rumors concerning his women, Rico is a more favorite target regarding this because Rico is more open with whatever is going on with his life.

So what of the feud between the two? Nothing is really clear. It seems Rico has a

project for Makati that Edu is allegedly blocking by refusing to sign its approval. Rumor has it that it has come to a point when each of their camps has been harassing the other. If you think about it, this is highly possible since the word war between the two continues to this day.

Since I am friends with both Edu and Rico, my advice to them is this: Patch things up before they get any worse. Be transparent to your constituents and let them know who their public servants really are.

Most of all, don't let politics get in the way of sensible thinking, sound judgment and righteous actions. Let Makati be your focus not your personal differences.

As for their managers, Norma and June, don't you think it's about time you step into the picture to help settle this once and for all? Well, how about it?

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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Side A shares spotlight with Pops Fernandez

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA
AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

LISTENING to the crowd roar as Side A recently hit the stage in Suburbia was an adrenaline boost. And hearing them play back-to-back with the concert queen Pops Fernandez in "What You See Is What You Get" on Feb. 24 at the Folk Arts Theater will keep you on your feet.

Aside from dishing out top 40s hits, love songs and dance tunes, what makes this concert special?

Joey Genoroso (vocals/acoustic guitars) enthuses, "Exciting because it's going to be a rollercoaster ride. Magiging either sentimental o masaya yung show. Masarap ka-trabaho si Pops, walang dull moment."

Pops adds, "I had a small show with them in Ilocos and we certainly had chemistry and rapport."

Naldy Gonzales, (keyboards/vocals) shares, "We had an 8-hour trip going to Ilocos and we really enjoyed Pops' company. Hip si Pops, anything goes sa kanya."

Joey G shakes his head, "Dati yung mga fans namin nakikinig lang, pero recently tuwing tinutugtog namin ang 'Everybody

Wants to Rule the World" and "Tuloy Pa Rin," ang dami nang sumasayaw."

Naldy shares, "Dati pare-pareho ang hilig namin sa music but we have to learn how to compromise. We have to think of our audience."

Joey Benin (bass guitars/vocals) notes, "Minsan yung akala naming nakakailang tugtugin OK lang pala sa audience namin."

Ernie Severino (drums/percussion/vocals) interjects that they would never sing songs with foul language. "Minsan kahit gusto namin yung melody pero may ibang connotation yung lyrics, hindi namin ginagawa. Ayaw namin ng 'Afternoon Delight' kasi may ibang ibig sabihin."

They all agree that it doesn't take too much effort for them to jell as a band and since they're comfortable with dance music, jamming with Pops Fernandez would be a breeze.

Jun Lana believes in "Larawan"

After co-writing "Muro-Ami" and "Jose Rizal" with Ricky Lee, Jun Lana has successfully struck out on his own. After writing TV scripts for "Maalaala Mo Kaya," Jun Lana has managed to keep the stories of "Kasangga," and "Kakabakaba" interesting even if it's a different genre. Now, he goes back to the drama genre as head writer for "Lara wan: A Special Drama Engagement."

Jun Lana believes that scriptwriting is his calling. When he was in high school, his class was divided into 10 groups for his history class. Each group was required to write a script and Jun ended up creating 10 scripts for his class. When he graduated in college, he ventured into advertising.

"My advertising background allowed me to see scripts as products to sell. The material should be good and should be clear to the audience. But you shouldn't look down on the masa and young audience, exposed na sila sa cable TV so they want good stories, at the same time I should also please my producer. Huwag natin silang maliitin dahil alam na nila kung ano ang gusto nila, kung ano ang nagpapakilig at nagpapaliyak sa kanila."

Jun adds that "Larawan" is a different drama anthology because each script is tailor-made for the actress being showcased. In the first four episodes, which star G Toengi, she is made to portray complex characters.

G Toengi welcomes such roles before leaving for New York because it's an opportunity for her to hone her acting skills.

Leandro Baldemor goes into business

After baring his bod in more than a dozen flicks, Leandro Baldemor is now setting his sights on business.

"I have invested some of the money I earned as a sexy actor in an Internet café cum entertainment place. It's very new, inaugurated just last December, but it's doing well," he says.

Baldemor chose the name Wow.Com because it has easy recall. Situated along the busy Quesada Avenue in Paete, Laguna, the place is now attracting mostly young people who, aside from surfing the net, can also play video games and billiards gorge on Baldemor's snacks.

"I think I got inspired by my parents," he says, "who are both business-minded. They have instilled in us, their children, the value of hard work, and how to handle and turn money into more money." Baldemor feels that he is now ready to apply



TOENGI. Stars in drama anthology.

the lessons he learned from his parents.

"Important sa amin yung maging independent. Hindi kami sinamay na hingi na lang ng hingi kung may kailangan. E, ngayon pang may kinikita naman ako sa movies, mas lalong kailangan na matuto akong tumayo sa sarili kong mga paa, di ba?"

Baldemor is one of our few actors who have let go of many opportunities to be able to finish a university degree. After almost six years, he finally graduated with a Nursing degree at the Deocampo Memorial Colleges. "I made sure na kahit artista ako at may kinikita na, I have to really finish what I started. Hindi naman forever kang may pangalan. Kaya kailangang may fallback ako."

While running his business, Baldemor also plans to review for the state board exam so he will get his license. And after all dreams are realized, he might consider settling down with his longtime girlfriend.

In the meantime, Baldemor continues to work hard, whether in the movies or in his Internet café. His current starrer, "The Virgin Wife" from FLT Films, is drawing the crowds in, at an opportuned time when the moralists are again making some noise to stop the exhibition of scheduled sexy flicks.

Rannie Raymundo's new book

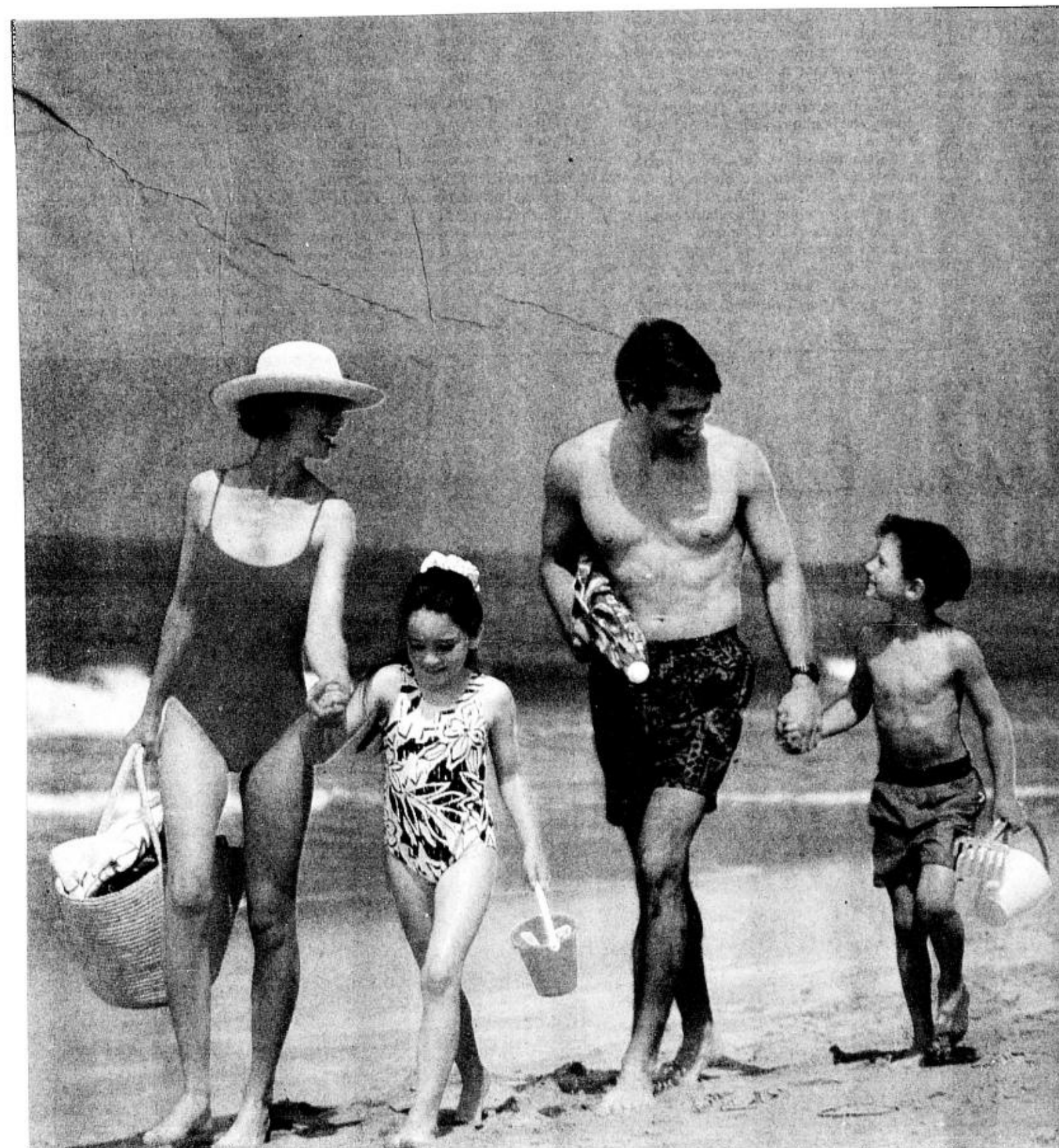
Singer Rannie Raymundo was in hiatus for a year and a half but he wasn't idle. Last week, his new book, "Digitation: The Hand Book of Life" was launched at the UVA Café in Quezon City, attended by his relatives and close friends from the entertainment business. Among them were his brother Lance, cousin Jake Roxas, singers Marco Sison and Dulce, TV personalities Tintin Bersola and Julius Babao and, of course, Rannie's proud manager Angie Magbanua who hosted the affair.

In the book, Raymundo explains why the secret to making the world a better and more peaceful place lies literally in our hands. Every page is laden with black-and-white photographs of the human hand, with copy focused on serious themes presented in very light and whimsical mode.

Raymundo is thankful that his mentor Jim Paredes agreed to write the foreword of the book, which is published by Earnest Tan through the Spiritus Works Publication.



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BALDEMOR. Opens Internet cafe.



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Saturday **SPECIAL**Sandra Bullock
is 'Miss Congeniality'

IT MIGHT seem like a show business cliché, but Sandra Bullock really is loved by everyone. Frequently hailed as the most down-to-earth, grounded—and just plain nice—star working today, Bullock can easily lay claim to the title Miss Congeniality.

Comedy

Which just happens to be the name of her new film, a comedy that writer Marc Lawrence describes as "Lethal Weapon" at a beauty pageant—and Sandy is Mel Gibson.

In a Golden Globe-nominated role, the 36-year-old actress plays Gracie Hart, a dedicated FBI employee who's somewhat lacking in the social and cosmetic arts. When a terrorist targets the (fictional) Miss United States pageant, Gracie must go undercover as one of the contestants, necessitating a drastic makeover for the style-challenged, tomboy agent.

Like macho Mel in his current movie, "What Women Want," Sandra's character tries to figure out the mysteries of women's beauty products, from waxing (a tried-and-true laugh-getter in both films) to enhanced cleavage.

And as co-star Candice Bergen, who plays a former Miss United States-turned-pageant-organizer, notes, "Women love transformation movies."

Eyebrows

Since Gracie is, to put it kindly, no natural beauty, special attention was needed for her pre-makeover look. "The [early] Gracie Hart took half an hour to make up, only for the laying in the eyebrows," says Bullock. "We basically modeled her after my junior high school picture. I loved the way [she] looked."

Agrees writer Lawrence, "I think Sandy uglies up pretty well."

"The end result is the Barbie doll, and it's something that requires many hours of construction on makeup and hair," says the actress, whose onscreen Gracie finally catches leading man Benjamin Bratt's eye after getting the glamour treatment. In her real life, says Bullock, "I prefer men to prefer the pre-makeover look."

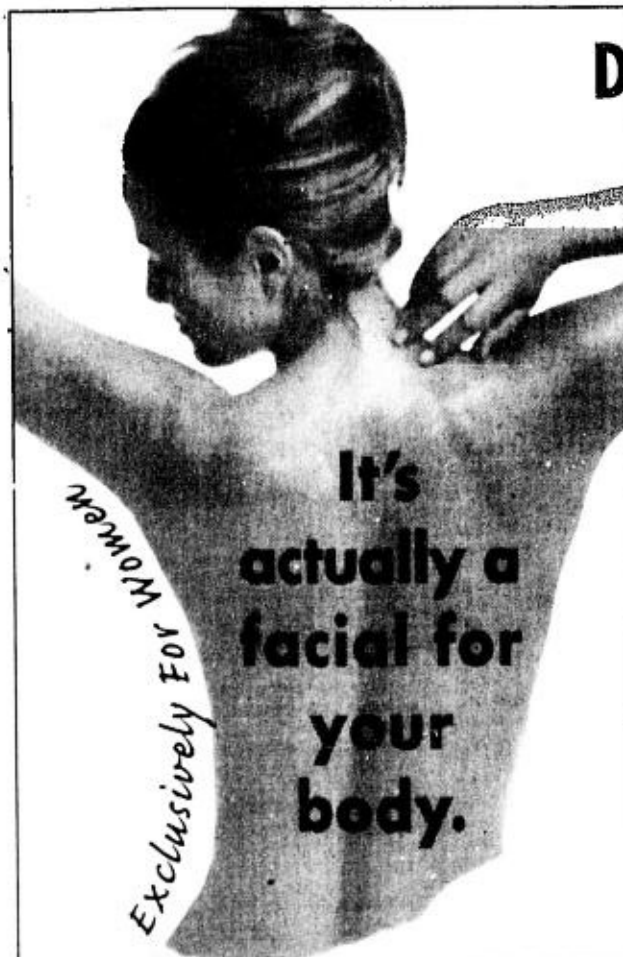
Bullock, who didn't watch much TV as a child, saw her first beauty pageant in junior high. "I was fascinated by it, that there were creatures that looked that good," she says. "When I met some of them [to research the movie], I thought, 'Please be stupid,' but when they weren't, it pissed me off."

Adds Sandra, "You're jealous. You always want what you can't have. But I wouldn't change [myself] for the world. I wouldn't make my thighs smaller. I wouldn't get liposuction. Right now, I'm super-comfortable with who I am."

SANDRA/P. G4



BULLOCK. Grueling transformation.


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Director Guy Ritchie snatches fame

BY KURT LANGLEY

LOS ANGELES—Former music video director Guy Ritchie caught the collective critical eye with his crime comedy "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" in 1998.

Big way

The public eye focused on Ritchie in a big way last year: He and Madonna became parents and a married couple, in that order. The wedding itself, in the hinterlands of Scotland, was one of the big publicity events of 2000.

Less publicized, but possibly more deserving of publicity, is his new film "Snatch." It was released in late 2000 in Europe and opened recently in the United States. The crime comedy is a rollicking ride through London's gangster world, the bustling diamond district and a rowdy gypsy camp.

Double-crossing, double bluffing and double-dealing abound as various parties pursue personal agendas—all of them illegal, some of them farcical and most of them destined to end in blood, pain and retribution. As plans go haywire, dogs, diamonds, boxers and assorted weaponry get swept up into a chaotic free-for-all.

"Snatch" is a crime comedy in the same vein; as "Lock," with many of the same cast members. These little-known performers now mingle smoothly with actors like Brad Pitt, Benicio del Toro, and Dennis Farina. A Madonna track, "Lucky Star" bounces on the soundtrack.

Dialect

Success, love and fame seem to ride lightly along the filmmaker's path. His colorful British dialect is much more "street" than BBC, and he still seems to take simple delight with the craft of putting fun on film.



RITCHIE (seated, front) on the set of 'Snatch.'

We recently talked with Ritchie in Los Angeles as he worked to promote the film's release in the United States.

You have such a unique directing style, peopling your films with these faces that are just so fresh and great. Are these your buddies? Where do you find these actors?

Some of them are my buddies, actually. It's really a question of casting, and the casting process for this film went on for two years. I thought it was nice to sprinkle complete fresh faces, interesting fresh faces with established and respected actors.

This time out, unlike the last film, you have some pretty big names in the film like Brad Pitt. How did that come about?

The bloke was a big fan of "Lock, Stock" and was out here at the time when he saw it and he called up about meeting me. We met in this hotel actually, the next day and we

had a jolly-up.

He expressed how he'd like to be in my next film and I expressed that I would also like him to be in my next film and he came along and got on fantastically.

Pitt has some fight scenes in the movie. Do you think his work in "Fight Club" was helpful in preparing for those sequences?

We did do quite a lot of preparation for the fight scenes. He broke one of his fingers while doing it, and he didn't tell anyone that he broke one of his fingers doing it, and he just got on with it and we found out afterward that his hand was swollen up to the size of a fat man's kneecap. He just didn't mince at all. He just got straight on with it.

He did seem to fit right in.

He's got terrible lung capacity, he smokes too many cigarettes. But he can look half fit.

DIRECTOR/P.G.6

Varga and Merk at the Hyatt

CITYLITE 88.3 presents Verni Varga and Richard Merk in "Romance of a Lifetime," a special dinner-show at the Harana Ballroom of Hyatt Regency Manila on Feb. 23.

MONTAGE

A powerful combination of exceptional talent and style, Verni and Richard reached the heights of popularity at Hyatt's Calesa Music Bar and Lounge, following the success story of many Calesa upstarts.

Verni was initially the lead singer of the Bong Peña and Emil Mijares bands, then established herself as a successful solo performer under the tutelage of the hotel's entertainment director and resident pianist, Rudy Francisco. Richard was the lead vocalist for the Blackbird band.

The comic side of Keanu Reeves

Star Movies unmasks the side-splitting image of matinee idol Keanu Reeves as he stars with young comedian Alex Winter in the sci-fi comedy, "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure," on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 a.m. only on Star Movies (with replays on Feb. 23 at 5:15 a.m. and Feb. 28 at 9 a.m.).

Keanu and Alex are high school

students who dread their upcoming history exam. Using a time-traveling telephone booth, the pair go through history, enlisting the help of famous people such as Napoleon and Socrates with hilarious results.

Profile of Samuel L. Jackson

Versatile actor Samuel L. Jackson is the featured artist on Star Movies' "Celebrity Profile" this Monday, Feb. 19 at 7 a.m. (with replay on the same day at 8 p.m.). The program includes photos from Samuel's childhood, college years and his early theater days as well as clips from his biggest films such as "Pulp Fiction" and "The Negotiator." Also interviews from Samuel and his family and celebrity friends including Morgan Freeman, John Travolta, Halle Berry, Charles Dutton and his wife LaTanya.

Deadly mission

Bill Pullman, Bridget Fonda and Oliver Platt go on a wild and deadly mission in "Lake Placid," a special Star Movies' "Sunday MegaMovie" presentation this Sunday, Feb. 18 at 9 p.m. (with replays on Monday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. and on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m.).

The quiet, remote lake is suddenly the focus of an intense search for a

crocodile with a taste for live animals and people as well. Find out who will be able to get out of this mission alive—the local game warden, the paleontologist from New York or the eccentric philanthropist with a penchant for crocs.

'Nick's Quest' on National Geographic Channel

National Geographic Channel joins Nick Baker in a series of adventures wherein he meets some of the most bizarre creatures in "Nick's Quest" today at 7 to 10 p.m.

Nick dons his warm clothes as he meets these white giants face to face in "In Search of Polar Bears." Hear them crunch across the snow. In real life are they cuddly and sweet creatures? Nick attempts to find out.

Found in some of the coldest areas of the world, penguins are some of the world's most popular birds. See these cool creatures in action in "Penguins."

Baker goes in search of one of the world's strangest mammals—the duck-billed platypus in "Platypus." When the first complete platypus coat and bill arrived in 18th-century England, the animal was dismissed as a hoax, with skeptics certain that such a strange looking creature could not possibly exist. The platy-



MERK AND VARGA perform in a special dinner show.

pus is one of the world's few venomous mammals; the adult male's poisonous spurs on its hind legs can inflict intense pain. But scientists are still researching the exact purpose of the spur, as well as other unanswered questions about the extraordinary design of the platypus and its role in the animal kingdom. With Nick's infectious enthusiasm for wild

and wonderful creatures, he jumps at the chance to let a blood-sucking leech feast on his blood.

Vault Disney opens

Rediscover a whole treasure chest of Disney classics as the Disney Channel opens "Vault Disney," a movie block showing timeless family flicks. "Vault Disney" brings family

magic every Saturday at 11 p.m.

On Feb. 17, "The Shaggy Dog" comes barking to the Disney Channel. A madcap adventure that will have audiences howling with laughter, "The Shaggy Dog" follows the tale of Wilby Daniels, a whiz kid who, by some ancient magic spell, accidentally transforms into a dog. It's one doggone adventure indeed!

Meanwhile, on Feb. 24, The Disney Channel will air "The Return of the Shaggy Dog," a sequel to the hit film "The Shaggy Dog." This time, Wilby Daniels is about to get married when he is once again transformed into a dog by his professor's evil servants. Follow Wilby's new adventures as he goes from one doggone predicament to another.

Treats from Fiesta World Mall

Fiesta World Mall in Lipa City, Batangas gears up this February with its lineup of events. Witty, talented and pretty girls will parade on Feb. 23, Friday (3 p.m.) in the monthly search for Ms Little Calendar Girl for the month of February.

The Fiesta Department Store Valentine promo on the other hand kicked off last Feb. 5 and will run until the 28th of this month. The promo entitles a customer to a free facial courtesy of Godiva Skin Care for every P500 purchase.

An inspiring film that makes viewers' hearts soar

FAMILY isn't always what you're born with—sometimes it's the people you find, sometimes it's the people who find you. From Oscar-nominated director Gus Van Sant ("Good Will Hunting") comes "Finding Forrester," an uplifting story about the unusual dynamic between an isolated author and the confident teenager who changes his life.

Newcomer

Acclaimed as one of the 10 Best Films of the 2000, "Finding Forrester" stars Sean Connery, Anna Paquin and astonishing newcomer Rob Brown.

In the film, William Forrester (Connery) was a vibrant personality who wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning classic novel four decades ago. And that's the last the world heard of him.

That is until Jamal Wallace (Brown), a brash 16-year-old with writing aspirations of his own, cracks the veneer of Forrester's sheltered existence and reignites the dreams of this literary legend in the winter of his life.

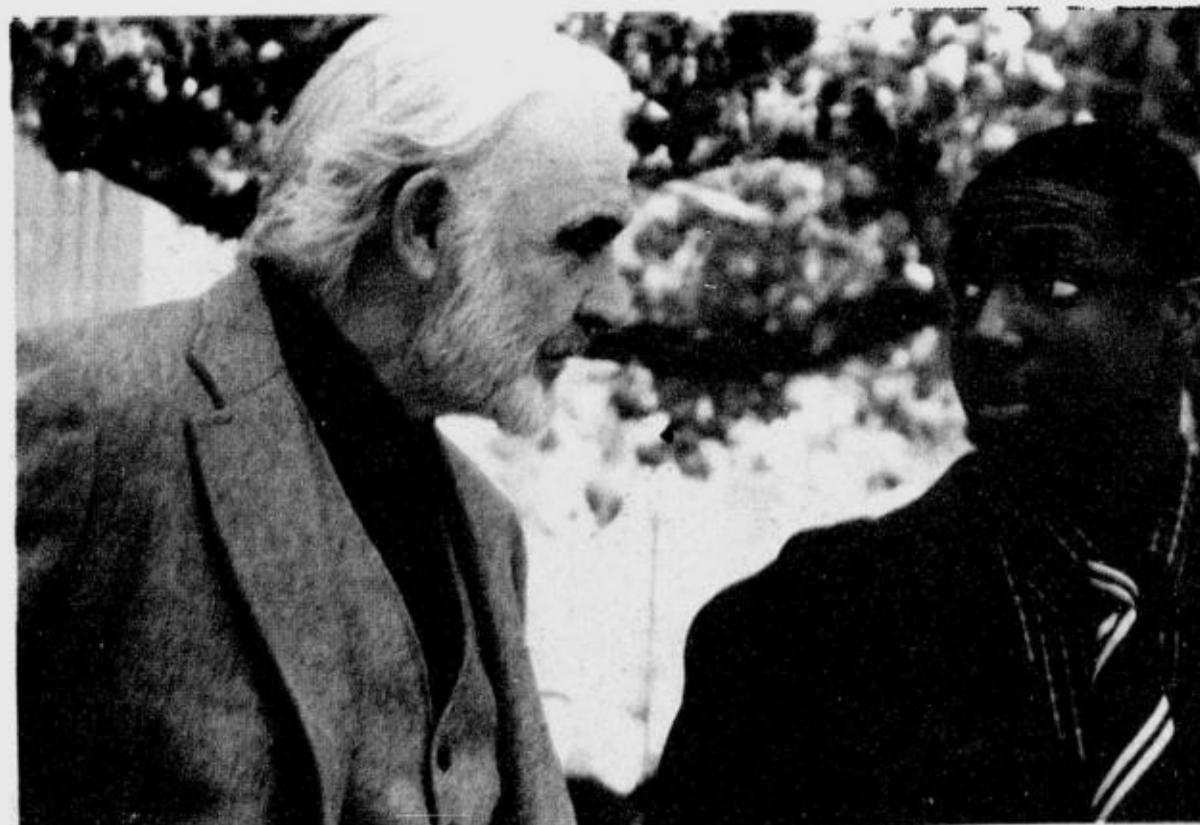
Backpack

Known as the neighborhood recluse, silver-haired Forrester is a man whose mystery and eccentricity border on the mythical. When Jamal, a talented African-American scholar-athlete who is recruited by an elite Manhattan prep school for his brilliance on and off the basketball court—sneaks into his apartment and accidentally leaves behind his backpack full of writings, they both get something unexpected in return. Compelled to look past skin-color and suppositions, Jamal encounters not only his first fan, but a mentor who will challenge and change him forever, and Forrester has his first reason in years to emerge from his self-imposed solitude.

Through their unique, occasionally contentious alliance, Jamal navigates a new world outside of the South Bronx home he shares with his loving mother and brother. Forrester is Jamal's unlikely guide on his journey into the strange, strait-laced academic community in which he must now prove himself as a writer.

"Forrester brings out Jamal's in-

Ultimately, both men defy the assumptions they initially made about one another, assumptions about race and age, history and ability



CONNERY (left) plays an isolated author while Brown is the confident teenager who changes his life.

telligence, and Jamal brings Forrester back into life," says Rob Brown. "They need each other in a way they never imagined."

"This is just fantastic," says Connery, "the idea of an aging, cranky character becoming the mentor and friend of a young boy, a black teenager."

Forrester's apartment, full of dusty stacks of classic tomes and the furious sound of a clicking typewriter, quickly becomes the place where the two writers meet, laugh, argue, learn and dedicate themselves to the one thing that irrevocably binds them together—love for the written word.

Tutelage

Under Forrester's tutelage, Jamal injects new passion into his work and enters the school's writing contest. Forrester, alongside his youthful protégé, finds himself reawakening to the outside world

he's shut out for 40 years.

Ultimately, both men defy the assumptions they initially made about one another, assumptions about race and age, history and ability.

"This is a great event for Jamal," Brown says. "No one has ever read his work with a critical eye before Forrester. It's like a dream, having someone he respects taking him seriously as a writer."

But the integrity of their friendship, as well as each man's loyalty, is tested when a charge of plagiarism is leveled against Jamal by autocratic Professor Crawford (F. Murray Abraham). Jamal's academic and athletic future is jeopardized when he is left alone to defend himself against the powers-that-be at the school.

Moment of truth

It comes down to a moment of truth for both men: for Jamal, a

choice between following his dream or betraying a friend, and for Forrester, a decision to remain closed off or to look at the world through new eyes.

"You need to know that while I knew so very early that you would realize your dreams," Forrester later writes to Jamal, "I never imagined I would once again realize my own."

"I think the theme of unlikely friendships is one that movies can explore with particular depth and imagination," says producer Laurence Mark.

"At any rate, it's certainly a theme that has always appealed to me. What could be more unlikely than the notion of a J. D. Salinger-like character becoming the mentor and friend to a 16-year-old, black basketball player from the South Bronx. It's unusual—and ultimately very moving."

Cinemax airs all-time Oscar greats

EVERY year the Oscar's, one of the most anticipated entertainment events, hits a high point in March. But expect something different from Cinemax this March, as the movie channel brings to your screen some of the most well-loved and award-winning films of all time. These all-time classics, aside from being masterpieces, have another and more significant thing in common—they have all won the prestigious and highly coveted Oscar.

Brutality of war

Released in 1957 and predictably collected the 1958 Academy Awards, "The Bridge on the River Kwai" is a powerful film experience that reveals once again the brutality of World War II.

In a harsh Asian jungle, British prisoners of war are ordered by their Japanese captors to build a railway bridge. With Colonel Nicholson, the character that won for the late Sir Alec Guinness the Best Actor Oscar, leading them, the British soldiers earn a noble triumph by building the bridge without knowing that the Allied forces are preparing to demolish this creation of their spirit and labor.

One of the most brilliant movies of all time, "The Bridge on the River Kwai" garnered the Best Cinematography, Best Director, Best Film Editing, Best Scoring, Best Screenplay and most importantly, the Best Picture awards.

Don't miss it, the movie premieres exclusively on Cinemax on March 7 at 10:45 p.m., with additional plays on March 13 at 12:15 p.m.; 24 at 2 p.m.; and on 29 at 10:45 a.m.

Five years after the spectacular "The Bridge on the River Kwai," Academy Award-winning director David Lean released yet another epic masterpiece, "Lawrence of Arabia" which chronicles the adventures of T.E. Lawrence, as detailed by journalist Jackson Bentley.

Lawrence, masterfully played by Peter O'Toole, is a young British lieutenant during World War I. As an observer working for the leader of an Arab tribal army, which

is now Saudi Arabia, Lawrence becomes an Arab messiah during their fight against the Turks.

Powerful story

This powerful story, the excellent casting and acting, the magnificent production all contributed to the big success of this all-time epic favorite, and collected the Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Film Editing, Best Music, Best Sound, Best Picture and David Lean's second Best Director Oscar. It premieres on March 10 at 2 p.m.; 15 at 9:15 a.m.; 20 at 2:15 p.m. and 25 at 4 p.m.

Then in 1968, the Oscars were swept by a landmark movie tackling the delicate issue of mixed marriage. In "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," released in 1967, Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy play a couple whose daughter played by Katharine Houghton, has chosen to marry a distinguished black doctor, portrayed by Sidney Poitier, testing the family's level of tolerance and understanding.

Written and made when interracial union was still a fairly shocking phenomenon, this funny and at once touching movie has a theme that endures and is still relevant to this very day. The actors' unforgettable performance gives life to the movie's script that deservedly won the Best Screenplay Oscar. This moving masterpiece also gave Ms Hepburn her second Best Actress Oscar. Catch it on March 22 at 4 p.m.; and on 31 at 2 p.m.

The following year's Oscar Awards were also dominated by another dramatic vehicle, the screen adaptation of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," a brilliant movie released in 1968. The 1969 Academy Awards' Best Cinematography and Best Costume Design Oscars went to this creation.

Directed by Franco Zeffirelli, this version of the tragic masterpiece starred Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey in the title roles. "Romeo and Juliet" will be shown exclusively on Cinemax, on March 17 at 2 p.m. and 27 at 2 p.m.

Haley Joel Osment, supporting actor of the year

HALEY Joel Osment, a largely unknown child actor before bowing to critical and public acclaim in 1999's "The Sixth Sense," has been named Showest 2001's supporting actor of the year.

Drama

Osment's most recent film outing was the soul-searching drama "Pay It Forward," from Warner Bros. The 12-year-old will next be seen in Warner's upcoming "A.I.," directed by Steven Spielberg.

"Haley Joel is a tremendously talented actor," said Robert Sunshine, chairman of ShowWest organizer Sunshine Group Worldwide. "We are honored to pay tribute to him for the incredible body of work he has amassed in such a short time as well as for his upcoming role in the much-anticipated 'A.I.'"

Spirituality

In "Pay It Forward," Osment explores spirituality and kindness with Kevin Spacey and Helen Hunt. Read on for Haley's enlightened movie experience!

When did you sign for this movie? Before or after the Oscar nomination?

Oh, way before. The Oscar nomi-

nations came in February and we had been shooting for about a fourth of the movie.

What did you think the first time you saw Kevin Spacey with his makeup?

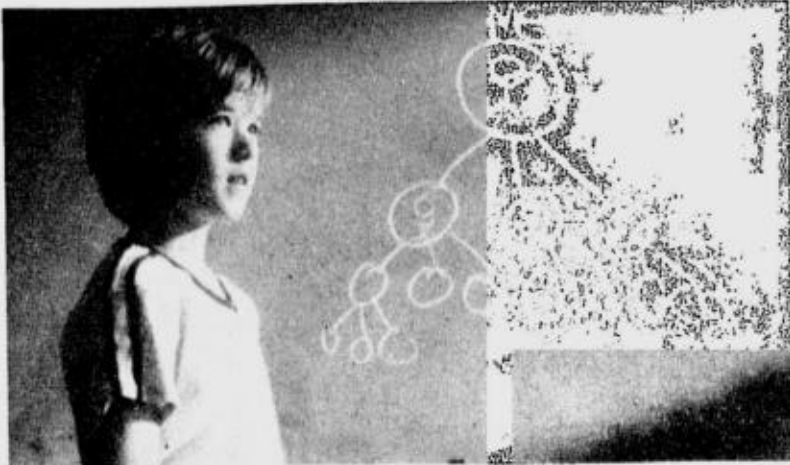
I didn't see him until we had already been shooting. We had been shooting my big bike riding sequence for awhile. My first shot with him ... well the first scene I ever did with him was when I came up with him and said, "What's wrong with your face?" at the car. I hadn't seen his makeup yet.

Surprise

I was going like this (covers his eyes) because they didn't want me to see his face. We wanted the surprise to be genuine, and it was. So that scene when I was really shocked, I actually was shocked because it was the first time I had seen the makeup and it looked great.

Helen Hunt looked pretty different in this movie.

Very different. Very different from clips of her movies, because I had never seen too many of her and Kevin's films because a lot of them are Rated R and I'm not allowed to see R movies. So, yeah, Helen



OSMENT. Stars with Kevin Spacey and Helen Hunt in "Pay It Forward."

looked different than in real life, very different.

Really blonde and really short skirts? And really a lot of eye makeup.

Yeah. We went into that trailer trash part of Las Vegas. It was a completely different look for everybody. It was very interesting.

The whole concept of one person being able to change the world, do you think that's possible?

I think it's possible. I think there

are little elements of "Pay It Forward" going on even in the world today. I think it is for some people and it should be in the future for everybody, instinctual to use the "golden rule," do unto others as they have done unto you. Instead of taking that and saying that you just pay somebody back with kindness, you spread the kindness. Instead of it just being between two people, it's one person to three people to nine people to 27 people to 81 people to

143 people. It keeps going. And that's what's so great about the idea. It's a very simple idea, and yet it's complex. And I definitely think it's possible.

Okay, when's the last time you paid it forward?

Well ... I don't want to brag about paying it forward because it shouldn't be something that you, "Oh, I paid it forward today." But there are little elements ... I mean ... you don't do huge gigantic things for people like Trevor does in the movie, every single day, but you're always on the lookout for little things that you can do to make up your pay it forwards for the day.

Today, I just try to look for opportunities to be nice to people, to open the door for somebody. Helping out somebody you don't even know is a symbol of kindness.

Great idea

I think that this movie is a way of paying it forward because it's sort of spreading the news.

It's an idea that I think people are going to walk out of the theater being empowered with. And that they have the ability to change the world, to change what they don't like about

their world into a place that's worthwhile to live in.

Okay, so if you could change anything about the world we live in, what would it be?

I think we have to change people. All these problems that we have in the world today are all about people. We're the biggest influence on the planet. On the environment, on each other, and it all starts on the home front.

Problems

Everybody should be happy in their lives and when that happens, we can easily solve all of our problems.

When you do a movie like that, is there a highlight that stands out in your mind?

My birthday was the last day of work. Kevin and Helen weren't working that day, but they still showed up. And everybody decorated my trailer. It was a really good crew and cast on this movie. Everybody knew each other.

It was like having 100 of your good friends come to your birthday party. And they had some presents and decorated my trailer and had a cake and everything. It was just a great day.

Marvin Agustin thanks his lucky stars

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

MARVIN Agustin turned 22 last month and instead of throwing a lavish party, he spent the day at CRIBS (Creative Responsive Infants By Sharing), distributing gifts to the children there.

Then he flew to Boracay to commune with nature and reflect on the blessings he has been generously receiving.

Back to school

He maps out some of the things he wants accomplished, and one of them is going back to school.

"I feel envious everytime I see someone about to graduate. How I admired Rico Yan for not abandoning his studies. I remember seeing him go over his lessons in between takes, or rush after a scene has been completed to catch up with his studies at La Salle. *Napakahirap ng kanyang ginawa.*"

"My decision is final. I am going to enroll at Thames this school year and take up International Business. I don't care how long it will take.

2001 marks Marvin's fifth year in show business and he is grateful for what the biz has done to him and his family. As a son, he vowed to provide his family, especially his mom, all the comforts in life. Abandoned by his father due to a cruel twist of fate, Marvin has acted both as father and elder brother to his siblings.

Reality

Marvin has nurtured the dream of becoming a businessman and, thanks to show business, it has become a reality. Last year, Marvin opened two branches of Mister Donut and a Ricecapades food station which sells different rice toppings.

But he dislikes the intrigue that lurks in show biz, and the damage it does. He feels sad for the victims and for the loss of privacy that stars

experience.

With every good director who handles him, Marvin's passion for acting intensifies. He believes that there should be no limitations for an actor in order to show his versatility.

Landmark

He considers "Tanging Yaman" an important landmark in his five-year old movie career. "You get a sense of fulfillment when you work with respected and professional stars like Hilda Koronel, Dina

Bonnie and Gloria Romero," he says. And he thanks comebacking directress Laurice Guillen who, he says, opened his eyes to what real acting is all about.

Marvin has started "Dekada 70" where he portrays one of the sons of Vilma Santos, a writer who leaves school to join the revolution.

Will he, like many of our actors, invade politics?

"No, thanks. I am not cut out for that. I can help people in other ways. *at baka mas effective pa,*" Marvin firmly replies.



AGUSTIN. No lavish party on his birthday.



"BAIT." An action-thriller with fun and comedy thrown in.

The thief who knew too much

FORTY-TWO million in gold has been stolen from the Federal Reserve and only one of the thieves was caught. To catch the mastermind behind the heist of the decade, the US Treasury Department is going to need fresh bait.

From the director of "The Replacement Killers" and the writer of "Armageddon" comes the season's meanest action-comedy: Warner Bros.' new smash hit "Bait." Jamie Foxx ("Any Given Sunday"), David Morse ("Proof of Life") and Doug Hutchison ("The Green Mile") star in this exhilarating story of mistaken identity.

Misfortune

In the film, Jamie Foxx plays Alvin Sanders, a down-on-his-luck thief whose fortune is about to change for the worse.

Landing in jail for a petty theft crime, Alvin finds himself sharing a cell with John Jaster ("Murphy Brown's" Robert Pastorelli), the incarcerated half of the pair of high-tech thieves responsible for the missing gold. His partner, Bristol (Hutchison), is still at large. Alvin wants only to get out of prison and start fresh with his girlfriend, Lisa (Kimberly Elise), and when the Feds, led by US Treasury investigator Clenteen (Morse), set him loose on a sketchy deal, he thinks his luck has finally changed.

Alvin has his freedom and the Feds have found their human "bait." The FBI releases him to lure the Bristol out of hiding and reveal the stolen treasure.

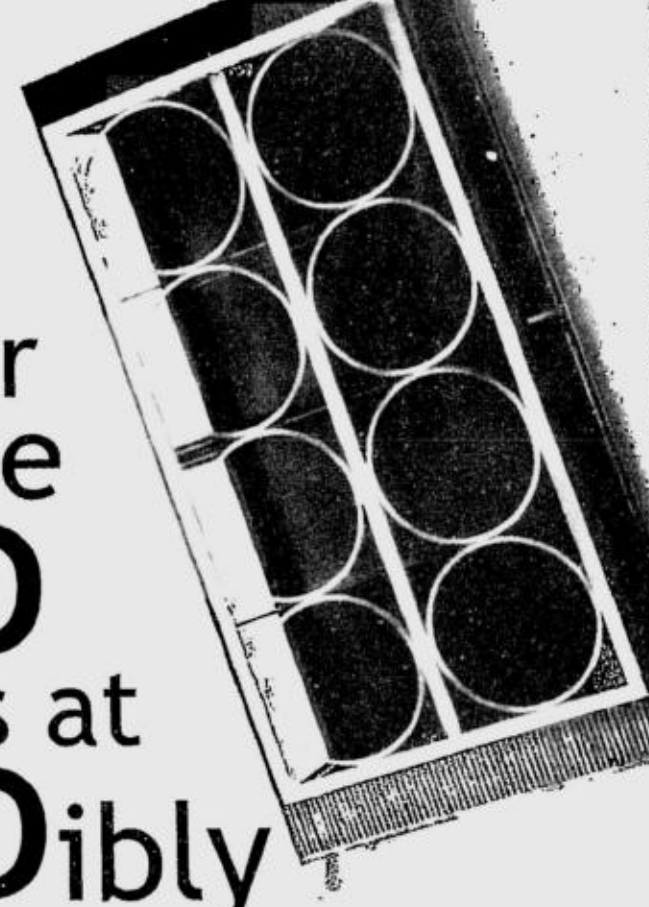
Jamie Foxx describes "Bait" as a "high-tech action thriller with some fun and comedy thrown in."

Bad breaks

"Alvin just gets bad breaks," adds Foxx, who earned a Golden Globe Best Supporting Actor nomination for his acclaimed performance in Oliver Stone's action drama, "Any Given Sunday." "He's small time looking for big time, and his big time is actually just hanging out with his girl in a one-bedroom apartment. Alvin is just a regular guy who may take change out of the collection plate at church, but says he's going to use change for a Godly cause."

Director Antoine Fuqua made a splash with the Chow Yun-Fat/Mira Sorvino action film "The Replacement Killers," after garnering a reputation for visually arresting commercials and music videos. To Fuqua, Foxx was up to the demands for both action and physical comedy that was critical to the role of Alvin, on whom the success of the film hinged. "I have watched Jamie on 'In Living Color' and in 'Any Given Sunday' and knew that he was not just a tremendously funny comedian, but that he would bring some extra ammunition to the role of Alvin as an actor."

Fuqua was committed to a balanced blend of comedy and action. "The humor in this film is subtle, not slapstick," he says. "I wanted to find a way to balance the humor, suspense and action, where the humor doesn't become slapstick and the action satisfies you when it's meant to be serious."

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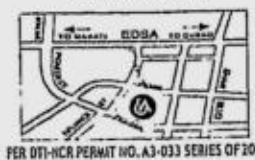
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Oddsmakers favor 'Gladiator' in Oscar race

BY LISA SNEDEKER

LAS VEGAS—Odds makers like "Gladiator," Russell Crowe and Julia Roberts as favorites to win Academy Awards this year.

Las Vegas bookmakers starting posting odds by noon Tuesday, soon after Oscar nominations were announced.

Most nominations

Joe Lupo, race and sports book manager at the Stardust hotel-casino, said he has "Gladiator" favored at 9-5 because it received the most nominations, 12. The other best-picture nominees are "Chocolat," 8-1; "Erin Brockovich," 4-1; "Traffic," 3-1; and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," which had 10 nominations, 6-1.

John Avello, director of the race and sports books for Bally's and Paris hotel-casinos, also likes "Gladiator," at 2-1.



"CHOCOLAT." Eight to one.

ator," at 2-1.

"It was my favorite when I put it up in December, then it won the Golden Globe and I'm sticking with it," he said. "But 'Traffic' is a close

second at 3-1."

The Oscars will be presented March 25 in Los Angeles.

Lupo said odds makers use theoretical win percentages to calculate



"TRAFFIC." Three to one.

the odds, as they would on a sporting event. The odds are hypothetical and for entertainment only, however, because state law prohibits wagers on events in which the out-

come is known beforehand.

If the entertainment odds were for real, they would be different, said David Scott, senior analyst for Las Vegas-based America's Line, who

has "Gladiator" as the favorite but at 1-2, meaning one would have to bet \$2 to win \$1.

"You can afford to be a lot more generous when you can't take a bet on it," he said, referring to the Las Vegas Strip sports books.

Crowe favored

For best actor, Avello has "Gladiator" star Crowe favored by 2-1 and two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks ("Cast Away") 3-1, with Geoffrey Rush ("Quills") at 4-1. Lupo favored Crowe 2-1, but his odds on Hanks are 7-2 because he doesn't believe "Cast Away" carried "the weight some of his other movies did."

Scott likes Hanks 4-5, over Crowe, 8-5. "But if there's a 'Gladiator' sweep, Crowe could be part of that."

Both books have Julia Roberts ("Erin Brockovich") as the even-money favorite for best actress; Scott has her as a 1-7 favorite. AP

Music veterans compete for Oscar

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

LOS ANGELES—Veteran rockers Bob Dylan, Randy Newman and Sting each collected Oscar nominations Tuesday for best movie song, competing against Icelandic pop singer Bjork and the composers of the theme to "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Bjork, star of the musical "Dancer in the Dark," earned a nomination for the song "I've Seen It All," which was co-written by the movie's director, Lars von Trier, and Sjon Sigurdsson.

song stuck in a movie," Hanson said. "What Bob did so brilliantly is he wrote the song Grady Tripp would have written if Grady Tripp were a poet."

"Things Have Changed" was the first song Dylan wrote directly for a movie since "Knockin' On Heaven's Door" in 1973 for director Sam Peckinpah's western "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid."

14th nomination

Randy Newman's nod for "A Fool in Love"—from the comedy "Meet the Parents"—is his 14th Academy Award nomination. However, the Grammy-winning

BY ROGER EBERT

WOULDN'T it make sense for Steven Soderbergh to avoid a split vote by asking his supporters to line up in one camp or the other? How about revealing which of his two best film nominees, "Erin Brockovich" or "Traffic," is his personal favorite? Or asking voters to support one for best picture and then name him best director for the other?

Not a chance. "That would be inappropriate," the double-double nominee has told friends. And if the split vote results in other winners? Nominees like to say "the real award is in being nominated." That goes double for the first two-time double nominee in history.

Soderbergh was also his own cinematographer on "Traffic": a nomination in that category would have sealed his personal Oscar triumph for all time.

—The Coen brothers, Joel and



ROBERTS stars as Erin Brockovich, the woman who brought a small town to its feet, and a huge company to its knees.

Sandra Bullock is 'Miss Congeniality'

(From page G1)

'I'm pretty jazzed. It's just the most ecstatic moment' --Bjork

Ecstatic moment

"I'm pretty jazzed. It's just the most ecstatic moment," Bjork said. "I did the movie a year-and-a-half ago ... and (awards) are like bonuses and bonuses."

Bob Dylan was nominated for "Things Have Changed" from "Wonder Boys," about a befuddled English professor named Grady Tripp, whose personal life collapses over one frenzied week-end.

Dylan wrote the song after viewing rough footage of the movie, according to "Wonder Boys" director Curtis Hanson. "The thrill is that this isn't a

singer-songwriter has never taken home an Oscar.

Sting and collaborator David Hartley shared a nomination for "My Funny Friend and Me" from the Disney cartoon "The Emperor's New Groove." Most of Sting's original songs for the movie were scrapped when the filmmakers dramatically revamped the story.

Jorge Calandrelli, Tan Dun and James Schamus claimed a nomination for the song "A Love Before Time" from the Mandarin-language martial-arts epic "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." AP

Undergoing the transformation was grueling for both character and star, but Bullock says she made it as tough as possible for herself on purpose.

Awkward

"We would choose clothing that would make me awkward, where I would have to run in a pageant dress in a certain way," she says. "We really set me up for failure every time I got into a dress," says Bullock, who sports a skintight, bandage-style dress in one scene and totters—and falls—in high heels time and time again.

That led to a lot of pratfalls in the

movie. "She has a great love for Lucille Ball-type comedy, and she has a great capacity for doing it. ... It looks easy to fall, but it's about the hardest thing to do without looking forced," says Lawrence, who also wrote "Forces of Nature" for Bullock.

"And those were not padded floors she was falling on," adds director Donald Petrie.

But if her cast and crew had anything to say about it, Bullock would not only win the Miss Congeniality title, but maybe take the tiara too. "I think Sandy would win so fast and easily," says Lawrence.

Complete stranger

"You cannot underestimate how incredibly charming Sandy is and how she is with people," he says, citing an incident in which the actress accepted a cellphone from a complete stranger in the middle of a shoot—and chatted with the man's wife on the other end.

Adds Lawrence, "Sandy's the most underrated actress in Hollywood. It doesn't always look like the 'Look at me, Ma' acting school."

Jokes Bratt, "The woman's positively out of her mind! On some level, that's pretty emancipating. She's fearless—she's not afraid to make

herself look silly or be foolish."

"Everyone's congenial when they want something," says Bullock, which begs the question: What does Sandra Bullock want?

"Well, there's a jewelry store right on Rodeo," she says in jest. "'No, you know what? I want to have a really good time. I want to make things that I'm really proud of and always take a risk and not be ashamed. Even if the general public [doesn't go for it] or it's not reviewer-friendly, I'd like to know that when I did something, I did the best job that I could. Sounds cheesy ... but this film is an opportunity to do exactly what I wanted to do."

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB. 17-23

CH	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
530	Magandang Gabi, Bayan	6:00	Cartoon Hour	6:00	Princess Tenko	5:30	Brigada Siete	6:00	SaBayan	5:30	H2K	6:00	The Explorer (Replay),	6:00	The Explorer (Replay),	3:00	O Show Case	6:00	E' Special			
7:00	Arriba, Arriba	7:00	On-Line Bingo	7:00	Sailor Moon Super S	7:00	Idol Ko Si Kap	7:00	Conan	7:00	Viva Premiere Night	7:00	Two of a Kind	7:00	Two of a Kind	7:00	Xclusive Cinema	7:00	Golden Globe Countdown			
8:30	Star Drama Theater	8:00	SDF	8:00	Easy Money	8:00	Kakabakaba	8:00	Marial Law	8:00	Kagat sa Dilim	9:00	Seventh Heaven	7:30	Seventh Heaven		Special		Golden Globe Pre-Show			
9:30	Pinoy Exposed	9:00	Lotto Draw	9:00	Isup	9:00	GMA's BEST	9:00	Saturday Night Playhouse	10:00	Gags Must Be Crazy	8:30	Party of Five	8:30	Party of Five	9:00	Oras ng Katotohanan	9:00	Golden Globe Post-Show			
10:00	Keep on Dancing	9:15	Read to Succeed	9:00	Easy Dancing Non-Stop	11:00	Master Showman Presents	11:00	Business Class	11:00	Night Lines	9:30	Studio 23	9:30	Studio 23	9:00	Armor of God	9:00	True Hollywood Story			
11:00	Loren "F"	10:45	Fashion Watch	10:45	Saturday Night Movies	12:30	GMA Network News	12:30	Late Night Movie				First Knight	12:00	MTV	10:00	Oh Tokyo	10:00	Wild On The Riviera '99			
12:00	The Weekend News	11:15	National Network News	11:15	Diagnosis Murder	1:00	The 700 Club									11:00	Pinoy Wrestling	1:00	Search Party			
12:00	The Weekend News	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills																	
530	Knowledge Power	6:00	Uncut	6:00	Tarzan	5:30	Partners Mel and Jay	6:00	Hollywood Squares	6:00	PBA	6:00	Timecop	6:00	Timecop	5:00	Quartermaster	6:00	It's Soup			
6:00	Sharon	6:30	Ugal	6:30	Savage Dragon	7:00	Bay's World	7:00	Compañero y Compañera	7:00	Sinemaks	7:00	Dawson's Creek	7:00	Dawson's Creek	6:30	Window Shop	6:30	CBS Evening News			
7:00	Wansapanataym	7:00	On-Line Bingo	7:00	Jamperson	7:30	GMA Telebisyon	7:30	Ripley's Believe It or Not	8:00	In His Steps	8:00	The Nanny	8:00	The Nanny	7:00	Sunday Mini-Series	7:00	60 Minutes (CBS)			
8:30	Richard Loves Lucy	8:00	PrimeTime Specials	8:00	Sing-Galing	9:30	Sunday Night Box Office	9:30	Kids Say the Darndest Things	11:00	In His Steps	8:30	Will and Grace	8:30	Will and Grace	8:00	Oh Tokyo	8:00	El Special			
9:30	ABS-CBN Presents	10:00	National Network News	10:00	Wow Mall!	11:30	Che-Cha Lazaro Presents	11:30	Stark Raving Mad	11:30	PBA Moments	9:00	Veronica's Closet	9:00	Veronica's Closet	9:00	Sunday Night Movies	9:00	Golden Globe Fashion Revue			
11:00	The Weekend News	10:30	Business & Leisure	10:30	Sunday Night Specials	12:00	GMA Network News	12:00	Sunday's Big Event	11:30	PBA Moments	9:30	Jack & Jill	9:30	Jack & Jill	11:00	Bikini Open	11:00	True Hollywood Story			
11:30	Oh No, It's Johnny	11:00	Sentinel	11:00	Johnny Walker Powerplay	12:30	The 700 Club	12:30	Sunday Report	11:30	PBA Moments	11:00	Digital Hour	11:00	Digital Hour			12:00	Celebrity Profile			
12:00	The Weekend News	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	Sentinel								Sunday Night Movies	11:00	Sunday Night Movies			11:00	Mauri Povich			
12:00	The Weekend News	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills													12:00	Talk Soup			
6:00	TV Patrol	5:30	Pambansang Balita	6:00	Gintong Pangarap	6:00	Saksi	6:00	Arangkada Xtra Balita	7:00	Blow By Blow	6:00	MTV Dyes	6:00	MTV Dyes	4:30	Quartermaster	6:00	CBS Evening News			
6:30	Saan Ka Man Naroroon	6:00	Cartoon Hour	6:30	Transformers Original	6:30	Tigun	6:30	Quinceañera	8:00	Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?	8:00	Greedy	7:30	Greedy	6:30	O Showcase	6:30	El News Daily			
7:00	Pangkako sa 'Yo	7:00	On-Line Bingo	7:00	Macron 1	7:00	Dragonball Z	7:00	May Bukas Pa	8:00	Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?	8:00	Making the Band	7:30	Making the Band	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Fashion Emergency			
7:30	Kayang Master, Kayang ni Misis	8:00	Pilipino Box-Office	8:00	Freakazoid	7:30	Pinoy Blockbusters	7:30	Siempre Te Amare	9:00	Viva Proudly Presents	9:00	Time of Your Life	8:00	Time of Your Life	8:00	O Showcase	8:00	El Behind the Scenes			
9:00	Judy Ann Drama Special	9:00	Lotto Draw	9:00	By Request	9:00	Pinoy Blockbusters	9:00	Maria del Cielo	10:00	Super Bouts	10:00	Charmed	9:00	Charmed	9:00	Ang Dating Daan	9:00	Almost Famous			
10:30	Headlines	10:15	National Network News	10:15	Spy Games	10:30	Front Page	10:30	Michael Hayes	11:00	Ronda Trese	11:00	News Central	10:30	News Central	10:00	O Showcase	10:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
11:00	Rosalinda	11:00	The Big News	11:00	The Big News	11:00	Front Page	11:00	The X-Files	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Points of View	10:30	Points of View	10:00	O Showcase	10:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
11:30	Correspondents	11:30	Beach Patrol	11:30	Beach Patrol	11:30	Front Page	11:30	PrimeTime Balita	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Nightman	11:30	Nightman			9:00	True Hollywood Story			
12:30	Martin Late@Nite	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	High Tide	12:00	The 700 Club	12:00	Homesan Reports	10:30	PBA Moments	11:30	MTV	12:00	MTV			10:00	David Letterman Show			
6:00	TV Patrol	5:30	Pambansang Balita	6:00	Gintong Pangarap	6:00	Saksi	6:00	Arangkada Xtra Balita	6:00	Rising Stars of Billiards	6:00	MTV Most Wanted	6:00	MTV Most Wanted	4:30	Quartermaster	6:00	CBS Evening News			
6:30	Saan Ka Man Naroroon	6:00	Cartoon Hour	6:30	Transformers Original	6:30	Bubble Gum Crisis	6:30	Quinceañera	8:00	DM2 TV	7:00	Greedy	6:30	Greedy	6:30	O Showcase	6:30	El News Daily			
7:00	Pangkako sa 'Yo	7:00	On-Line Bingo	7:00	Superman (Animated)	7:00	Virtual Fighter	7:00	May Bukas Pa	8:00	Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?	8:00	Making the Band	7:30	Making the Band	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Fashion Emergency			
7:30	Oka Tokai	8:00	PBL	8:00	Hercules	7:30	Kool Ka Lang	7:30	Siempre Te Amare	9:00	Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?	9:00	Beverly Hills 90210	8:30	Beverly Hills 90210	8:00	Ang Dating Daan (Live)	8:00	Celebrity Homes			
8:30	Regal Presents	9:00	Lotto Draw	9:00	Team Knight Rider	10:30	The Big News	10:30	Maria del Cielo	9:00	Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?	9:00	Graviverse	8:30	Graviverse	8:00	O Showcase	8:00	El Behind the Scenes			
10:30	Headlines	10:15	National Network News	10:15	The Big News	11:00	The Probe Team	11:00	Ally McBeal	11:00	Ronda Trese	11:00	News Central	10:30	News Central	10:00	O Showcase	10:00	El Behind the Scenes			
11:00	Rosalinda	11:00	Business Insight	11:00	Kontak 5	12:00	The 700 Club	12:00	The Practice	11:30	Ronda Trese	11:30	Opah	10:30	Opah	9:00	Ang Dating Daan	9:00	O Brother Where Art Thou?			
11:30	Pipol	11:30	Game of a Thousand Thrills	11:30	FX The Series	12:00	The 700 Club	12:00	PrimeTime Balita	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	MTV	12:45	MTV			8:30	El Mysteries & Scandals			
12:30	Martin Late@Nite	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	The Big News (Replay)	12:30	The 700 Club	12:30	Ngayon Na Pinoy	11:30	PBA Moments	12:45	MTV					9:00	True Hollywood Story			
6:00	TV Patrol	5:30	Pambansang Balita	6:00	Gintong Pangarap	6:00	Saksi	6:00	Arangkada Xtra Balita	6:00	PBA	7:00	Fantasy Island	6:00	Fantasy Island	4:30	Quartermaster	6:00	CBS Evening News			
6:30	Saan Ka Man Naroroon	6:00	Cartoon Hour	6:30	Transformers Original	6:30	Tigun	6:30	Quinceañera	10:00	Subic Bay	9:00	Gameplan	6:30	Gameplan	6:30	O Showcase	6:30	El News Daily			
7:00	Pangkako sa 'Yo	7:00	On-Line Bingo	7:00	Sabrina	7:00	Dragonball Z	7:00	May Bukas Pa	11:00	Ronda Trese	10:00	News Central	7:30	News Central	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Fashion Emergency			
7:30	Pwedeng-Pwedeng	8:00	HBO Boxing	8:00	Suddenly Susan	7:30	Beh Bole Nya	7:30	Siempre Te Amare	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Opah	8:00	Opah	8:00	O Showcase	8:00	El Behind the Scenes			
9:00	Katapat, Fred Lim	9:00	Lotto Draw	9:00	Fraser	9:00	GMA Drama Studio Presents	9:00	Maria del Cielo	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	The Explorer	9:00	The Explorer	9:00	Ang Dating Daan	9:00	O Brother Where Art Thou?			
10:30	Headlines	9:15	Tapatan Watang Atasan	9:15	Friends	10:00	Front Page	10:00	It's A Miracle	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	MTV	10:30	MTV	10:00	O Showcase	10:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
11:00	Rosalinda	10:15	National Network News	10:15	E.R.	11:00	Imbestigador	11:00	PrimeTime Balita	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	MTV	10:30	MTV	10:00	O Showcase	10:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
11:30	Isyu 101	11:00	Nature Trip	11:00	The Big News	12:00	The 700 Club	12:00	Westling	10:30	PBA Moments	11:30	MTV	10:30	MTV	10:00	O Showcase	10:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
12:30	Martin Late@Nite	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	Musika Alp	12:00	The 700 Club	12:00	Westling	10:30	PBA Moments	11:30	MTV	10:30	MTV	10:00	O Showcase	10:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
12:30	Martin Late@Nite	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	Police Academy	11:30	The 700 Club	12:00	Kasangga Mo' Lang	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	MTV	10:30	MTV	10:00	O Showcase	10:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
6:00	TV Patrol	5:30	Pambansang Balita	6:00	Gintong Pangarap	6:00	Saksi	6:00	Arangkada Xtra Balita	6:00	NBA Game of the Week	6:00	MTV Non-Stop Hits	6:00	MTV Non-Stop Hits	4:30	Quartermaster	6:00	CBS Evening News			
6:30	Saan Ka Man Naroroon	6:00	Cartoon Hour	6:30	Transformers Original	6:30	Bubble Gum Crisis	6:30	Quinceañera	8:00	Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?	8:00	Be Seen @ MTV	6:30	Be Seen @ MTV	6:30	O Showcase	6:30	El News Daily			
7:00	Pangkako sa 'Yo	7:00	On-Line Bingo	7:00	Guinness World Records	7:00	Virtual Fighter	7:00	May Bukas Pa	9:00	Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?	9:00	Graviverse	7:30	Graviverse	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Fashion Emergency			
7:30	Homa Along da Riles	8:00	PBL	8:00	Soldier of Fortune	7:30	1 For 3	7:30	Siempre Te Amare	9:00	Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?	9:00	Cosplay 23	7:30	Cosplay 23	8:00	O Showcase	8:00	El Behind the Scenes			
9:00	Mastala Mo Kayang	9:00	Lotto Draw	9:00	Burning Zone	8:30	Viva Sinerama	8:30	Maria del Cielo	11:00	Ronda Trese	11:00	Opah	8:00	Opah	8:00	Ang Dating Daan	8:00	Almost Famous			
10:30	Headlines	10:15	National Network News	10:15	The Big News	10:30	Front Page	10:30	Malcolm in the Middle	11:00	Ronda Trese	11:00	News Central	9:00	News Central	9:00	O Showcase	9:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
11:00	Rosalinda	10:15	Olympic Program	10:15	Strangers	11:00	Debate with Mare at Paie	11:00	Dharma and Greg	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Opah	8:00	Opah	8:00	Ang Dating Daan (Live)	8:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
11:30	Assignment	11:30	Game of a Thousand Thrills	11:30	New York Undercover Year 2	12:00	The 700 Club	12:00	City of Angels	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Opah	8:00	Opah	8:00	Ang Dating Daan (Live)	8:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
12:30	Martin Late@Nite	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	The Big News	12:00	The 700 Club	12:00	Pinewell Balita	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Opah	8:00	Opah	8:00	Ang Dating Daan (Live)	8:00	El Mysteries & Scandals			
6:00	TV Patrol	5:30	Pambansang Balita	6:00	Gintong Pangarap	6:00	Saksi	6:00	Arangkada Xtra Balita	6:00	PBA	7:00	Monster By Mistake	6:00	Monster By Mistake	4:30	Quartermaster	6:00	CBS Evening News			
6:30	Saan Ka Man Naroroon	6:00	Cartoon Hour	6:30	Transformers Original	6:30	Tigun	6:30	Quinceañera	8:00	Kabayo, Karera, Kariwista	8:00	Batman	6:30	Batman	6:30	O Showcase	6:30	El News Daily			
7:00	Pangkako sa 'Yo	7:00	On-Line Bingo	7:00	Sliders	7:00	Dragonball Z	7:00	May Bukas Pa	11:00	Ronda Trese	11:00	Survivor	7:30	Survivor	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Fashion Emergency			
7:30	Digimon	8:00	Siret Legal	8:00	The Big Night	8:00	Bubble Gum	8:00	Siempre Te Amare	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Survivor	7:30	Survivor	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Celebrity Homes			
8:30	Star Cinema Presents	9:00	Lotto Draw	9:00	The Big News	9:30	Malcolm in the Middle	9:30	Maria del Cielo	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Survivor	7:30	Survivor	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	El Behind the Scenes			
10:30	Headlines	9:15	Pulso ng Masa	9:15	Friday Box Office	10:30	Front Page	10:30	Dharma and Greg	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Survivor	7:30	Survivor	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Almost Famous			
11:00	Rosalinda	10:15	National Network News	10:15	Friday Box Office	11:00	Emergency	11:00	City of Angels	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Survivor	7:30	Survivor	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	El Behind the Scenes			
11:30	Julie	11:00	The Scene	11:00	Friday Box Office	11:00	Emergency	11:00	City of Angels	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Survivor	7:30	Survivor	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Almost Famous			
12:30	Martin Late@Nite	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	Friday Box Office	11:00	Emergency	11:00	City of Angels	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Survivor	7:30	Survivor	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Almost Famous			
12:30	Martin Late@Nite	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	Friday Box Office	11:00	Emergency	11:00	City of Angels	11:30	PBA Moments	11:30	Survivor	7:30	Survivor	7:30	Oras ng Katotohanan	7:30	Almost Famous			
12:30	Martin Late@Nite	12:00	Game of a Thousand Thrills	12:00	Friday Box Office	11:00	Emergency															

43rd Annual Grammy Awards live on Channel [V]

CHANNEL [V] airs the live telecast of the 43rd Annual Grammy Awards on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 9 a.m.

Channel [V] has always rallied in full support of the Grammy Awards—most nominated artists or songs are on the channel's playlist. U2 and Madonna, the first super acts confirmed to perform at this year's Grammy Awards, were Channel [V]'s Chosen Ones for December and January respectively. Additionally, the Chosen One for February, The Corrs, have been nominated for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal and Best Pop Instrumental Performance.

Destiny's Child and 'N Sync are also set to perform their latest hits live on stage at the award ceremony. New R & B diva Erykah Badu, Ray Romano from the hit sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond" and last year's multiple Grammy winner Carlos Santana have been named presenters for the music industry's preeminent awards show.

A number of artists received three or more nominations. Five nominations were handed to Dr. Dre and Destiny's Child's Beyoncé Knowles, and controversial rapper Eminem received four nominations.



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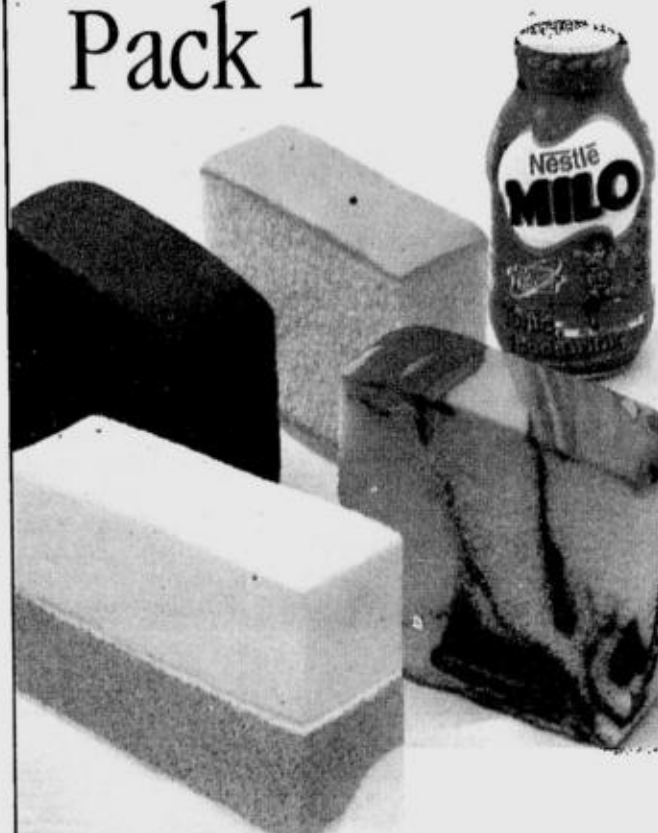


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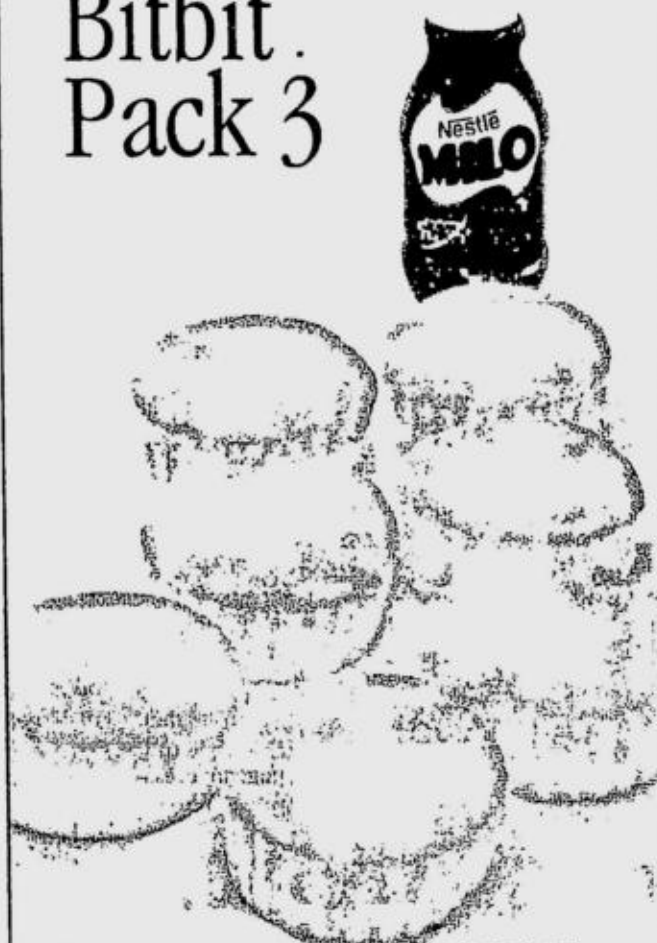
Bitbit Pack 2



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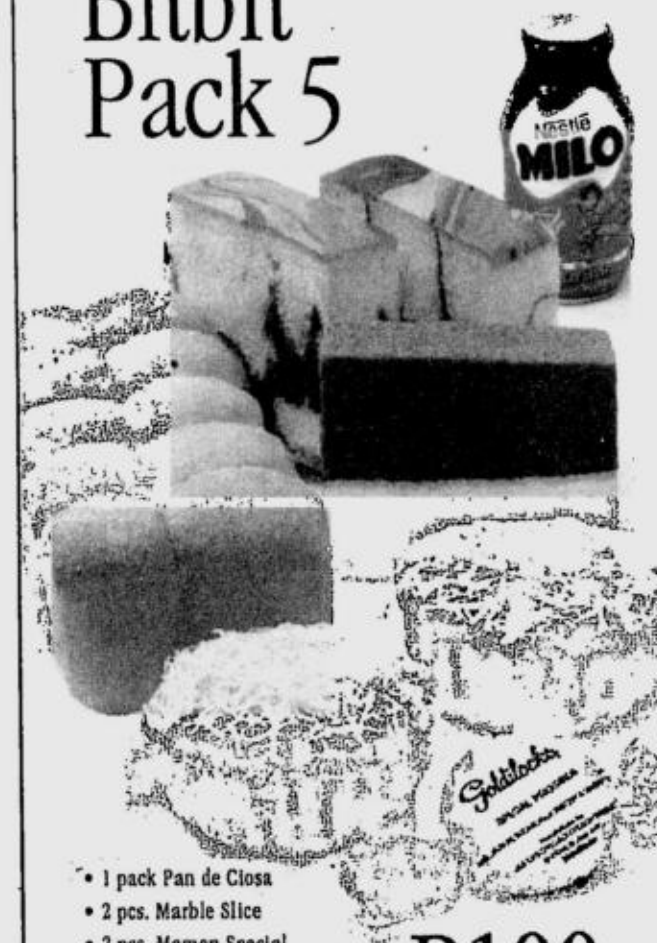
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Piel stars in 'The Virgin Wife'

By EDMUND L. SICAM

SOME entertainment writers still shake their heads when bold star Piel Morena persists that she is still a virgin. They claim it's all part of her producer, Mommy Rose Flaminiano's plan to gain mileage in mass media. Whether Piel's claim is true or not, she sounded believable when we talked to her at the presscon for her latest sizzler, "The Virgin Wife." She says she's surprised that the press made a big thing about her revelation. "Alangan naming magsinungaling ako at sabihin kong hindi na ako virgin," she says.

'X' ratings

"The Virgin Wife" was disapproved for public showing by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board after two committees gave the movie the dreaded 'X' classification. Another of Piel's movies, "Senswal" also got two X ratings from the

MTRCB and had to be reshot before it was approved by the Malacañang Appeals Committee. The Committee finally approved Piel's latest movie after some sex-oriented scenes were shortened by the film company.

In the movie, Piel plays a woman who gets married four times without losing her virginity. That's because all her grooms die before they consummate the marital act. What's the statistical probability of that happening in real life? Probably the same as winning the lotto two times in a row. Of course, there is an explanation for the unusual phenomena — a curse planted by her first beau's girlfriend. Nobody ever survives a hex in a local movie unless the hero or heroine finds a way to break it.

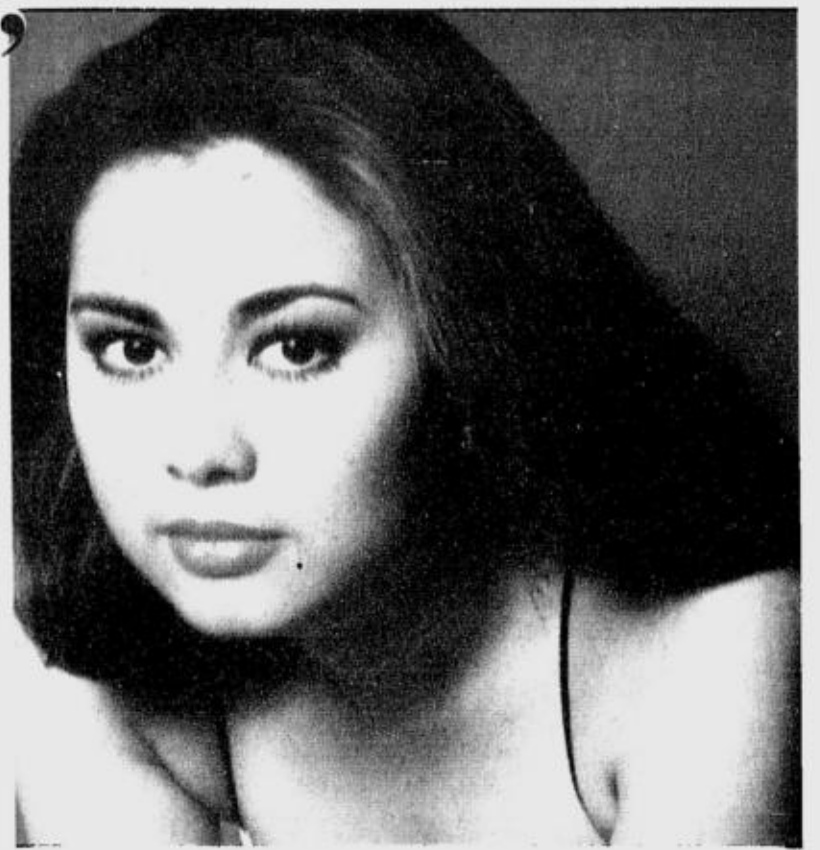
We are hoping, of course, that the curse doesn't extend to the real world because Piel hopes someday to make the man of her life truly happy by surrendering something she considers very precious. In terms of time-

table, that would mean four years from now when she hopes to get married. By then, she hopes her career would have stabilized and she can devote most of her time to her role as a housewife in real life. Unless she finds her ideal man sooner, in which case, she may get married earlier than scheduled.

There are several suitors trying their best to woo her but she hasn't found anyone she really likes. She laughs when she recalls a suitor who was rich and quite attractive, and not just in the looks department. He was also a gentleman. She found herself gradually falling for her until she found out later on that he was bisexual. End of courtship.

Dance instructor

In the meantime, she wants to continue working because her family depends on her to help out with the finances. Even when she was a fourth year high school student in Angeles City, she was already working as a DJ in one of the local clubs. She says she



MORENA. No more bold roles for her.

was not really a good dancer but the club owner allowed her to work because she needed the money. This led to her getting a job with FLT films. Her first movie assignment required her to tackle a sexy role but it was mild compared to her latest role.

Piel is hoping, though, that "The Virgin Wife" will be her last bold movie. She feels she has already shown everything there is to show and she wants to try other types of movies. In fact, she will soon be seen in an action picture with Ace Vergel where the boldest scene she has is a wholesome kissing scene with her leading man. She wants to do dramas next and hopes she can follow the footsteps of actresses like Lorna T and Jacklyn Jose.

Isn't she worried that her fans will no longer watch her movies because they expect nudity and lovemaking in her projects? She admits being scared by this possibility and although she didn't say it, we foresee Piel trying to ease gradually into non-bold roles.

Piel says that when she started out in the movies, she tried to convince herself that she was enjoying what she was doing. Now, she says, "Hindi na ako happy. Dati masaya ako, bata pa kasi ako noon. Nag-mature na kasi ako. I'm only fooling myself when I say doing bold roles is fun."

Respect

Piel explains that when she disrobes in front of the camera, she tries not to feel anything. She says, "Binabanko ko ang utak ko pug may love scene ako. Lumilipad ang utak ko sa lugar na hindi ako puedeng habulin." In fairness to her co-stars and production crew, she has always been treated with respect during the filming of the more delicate scenes. Everything is discussed before the film starts shooting. She has never gone beyond what was discussed in pre-production during the actual filming.

The sexy star is concerned how people will remember her. She's worried that when she shifts to drama or comedy roles, people will still remember her as "ang dating bold star."

Piel is Baby Rose Cortez in real life. Her screen name, Piel Morena comes from the song made popular by Thalia.

She recently found out that she is adopted although she has not confronted her foster mom about it. She was devastated to learn that everyone around her knew that she was adopted and nobody told her.

We hope that the trials she's gone through will help Piel become a good actress. Then she doesn't have to depend on her claim of virginity to get wide coverage in the entertainment media.

Director... (From page G2)

How are you bearing up under the enormous whirlwind of events that have happened to you in the last six months?

Very well indeed. I couldn't be happier. I've never been this happy in my life and I pray it continues.

Will Madonna have a role in your next film? It won't be the next film, but I'm sure we'll end up working together at some stage.

Now you'll be operating on both sides of the Atlantic. Will you make films in Hollywood?

Not prejudiced

I'm not prejudiced about where it is that I make a film. The infrastructure is greased and smooth here. I have a crew I work with wherever I go, and we don't care where we work.

The reviews in the United States have been generally favorable to "Snatch."

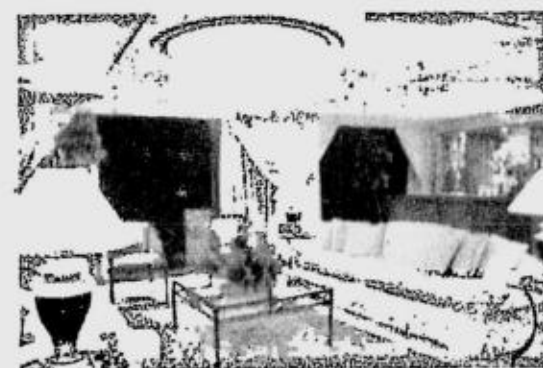
That's great. "Snatch" plays better in America than "Lock, Stock," which I'm very pleased about. I don't know which is the better film. I'm just pleased at the way it plays. It does play better in America than it did in England. I don't know why that is.

Which film do you prefer? "Snatch." I haven't seen it as much as "Lock, Stock." That one I've seen about a thousand times; "Snatch" only about eight times, which is very little for a director.

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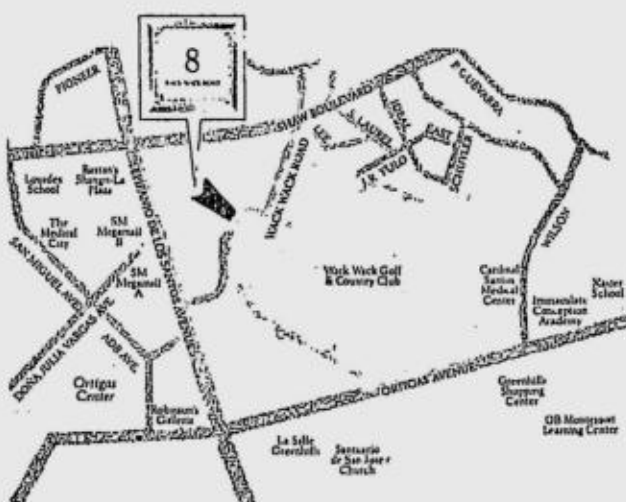


kitchen and a living room bathed in natural light. In this nature-blessed setting is a floating tropical oasis above the city. With a curving pool where you can take a balmy dip under stately palm trees and blue skies. Or refresh yourself in a shaded in-water lounge as you watch the waters cascade towards the horizon. There's a squash court, gym, steam room and children's playground at the podium deck. And minutes away are the business and leisure centers of Ortigas and Makati.

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Saturday SPECIAL



"BILLY ELLIOT." A journey of self-discovery.

Learning about life from a ballet teacher

"BILLY Elliot" is a coming-of-age story of a young boy, Billy, who through his unexpected love of dance, embarks on a journey of self-discovery in the world of picket lines, cultural stereotypes, a family in crisis and headstrong ballet teacher.

When 11-year-old boy (Jamie Bell) stumbles across a local ballet class that shares the village hall with his boxing club, something in the magic of the movements captures his imagination, and he's soon ditching his boxing gloves to sneak in at the

back of Mrs. Wilkinson's (Julie Walters) lessons.

With a sharp eye for talent, Mrs. Wilkinson's zest for teaching is revived when she sees Billy potential. Forgetting the other ballerinas, she's drawn into teaching her raw new protégé. "Billy Elliot" star Julie Walter, Gary Lewis, Jamie Bell and Jamie Draven and is directed by Stephen Daldry. The film is released by Universal Pictures and distributed through United International Pictures.

Welcome to our



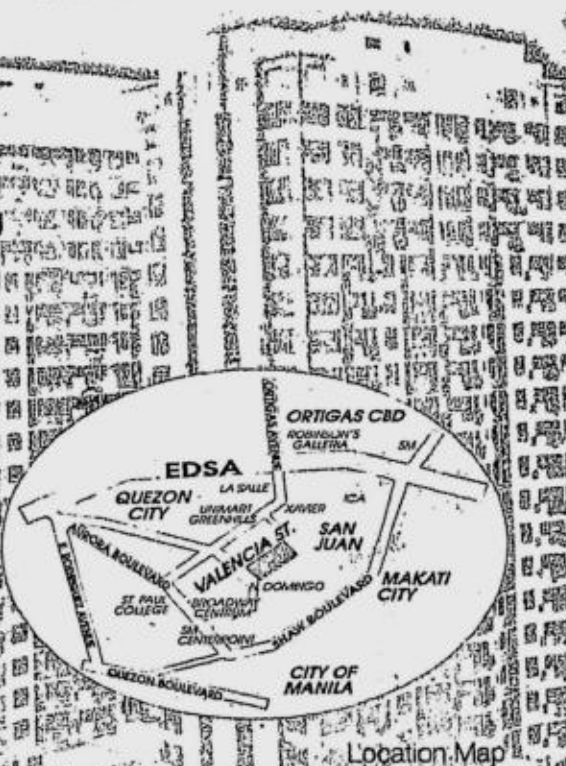
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If you're in Alabang Town Center, text: "Hello Town"

If you're in Ayala Center Cebu, text: "Hello ACebu" (for Cebu residents only)

Send your text to 2333 and receive our WELCOME TEXT featuring the latest mall events and discounts for the day. And if you're lucky, you'll also receive our confirmation that you're one of 90 daily winners of Ayala Cinema tickets, Timezone Powercards or gift certificates from Ayala Mall establishments! What's more, drop by the TXT 4 Thrills booth for a chance to win NOKIA gift checks! Just answer the questionnaire and play the Booth Thrills game at our computer terminal. So hurry and start texting your favorite Ayala mall now and we'll send thrills up your spine in the TXT 4 Thrills promo!

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Promo period is from January 29 to May 25, 2001.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0026, Series of 2001.



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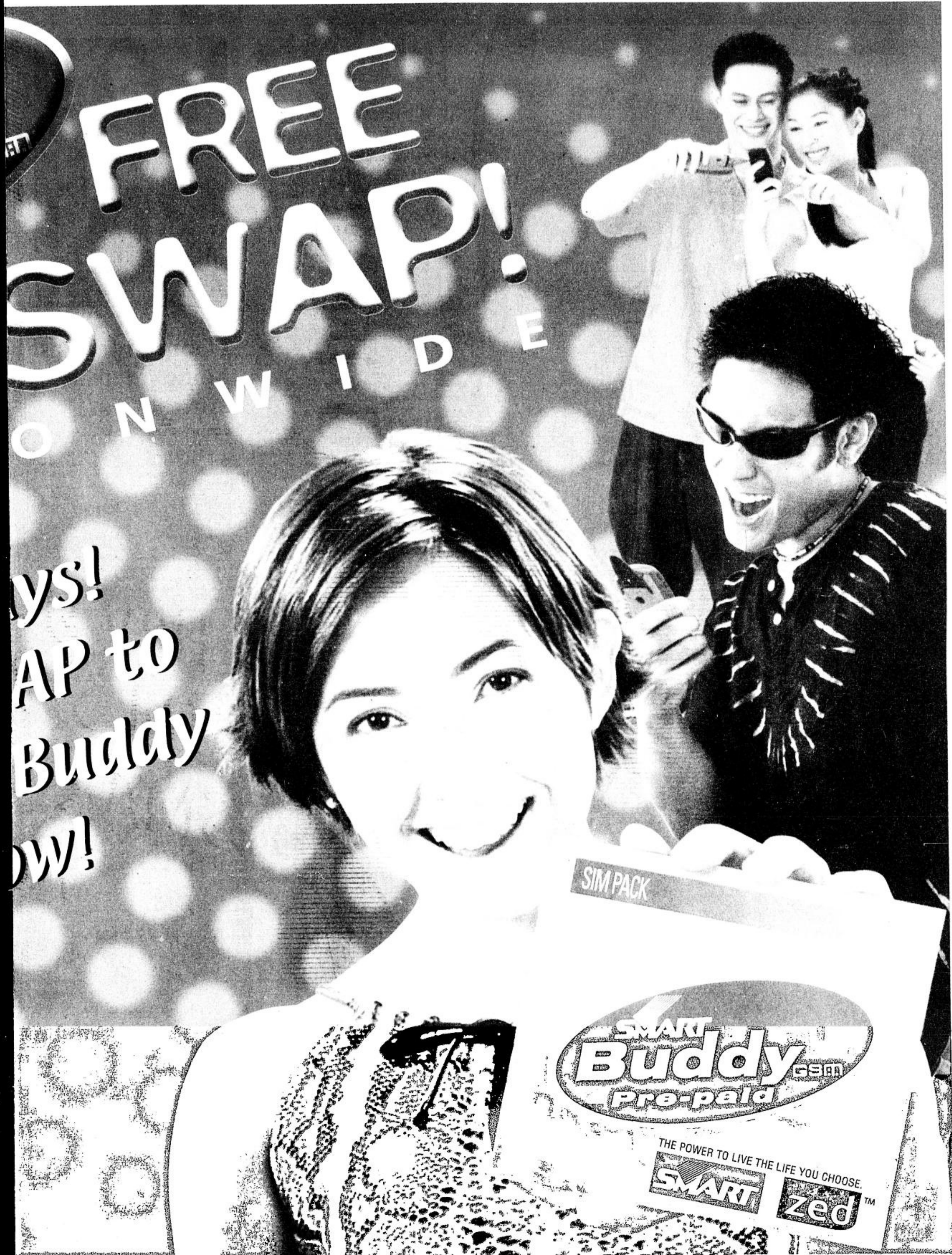
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SMART GSM SIM SWAP Is hassle-free:

- Free download of phone directory from your old SIM card to your new SMART zed or SMART Money SIM card.
- Free text broadcast of your new SMART Buddy celfone number to everyone in your phone directory.

MECHANICS:

1. Bring your non SIM-locked dual band cell phone to your nearest Telecenter/ authorized dealer or any SMART zed or SMART Money store.
2. For SIM-locked dual band cell phones, just visit your nearest Telecenter/ authorized dealer or any SMART zed or SMART Money store.
3. For single band cell phones, visit your nearest Telecenter/ authorized dealer or any SMART zed or SMART Money store to get a SMART zed or SMART Money SIM card.
4. Exchange your non-SMART SIM card for a SMART zed or SMART Money SIM card and get 100 free text messages and 100 free minutes of airtime.



phones with an active non-SMART GSM SIM card to a SMART Swapping Station.

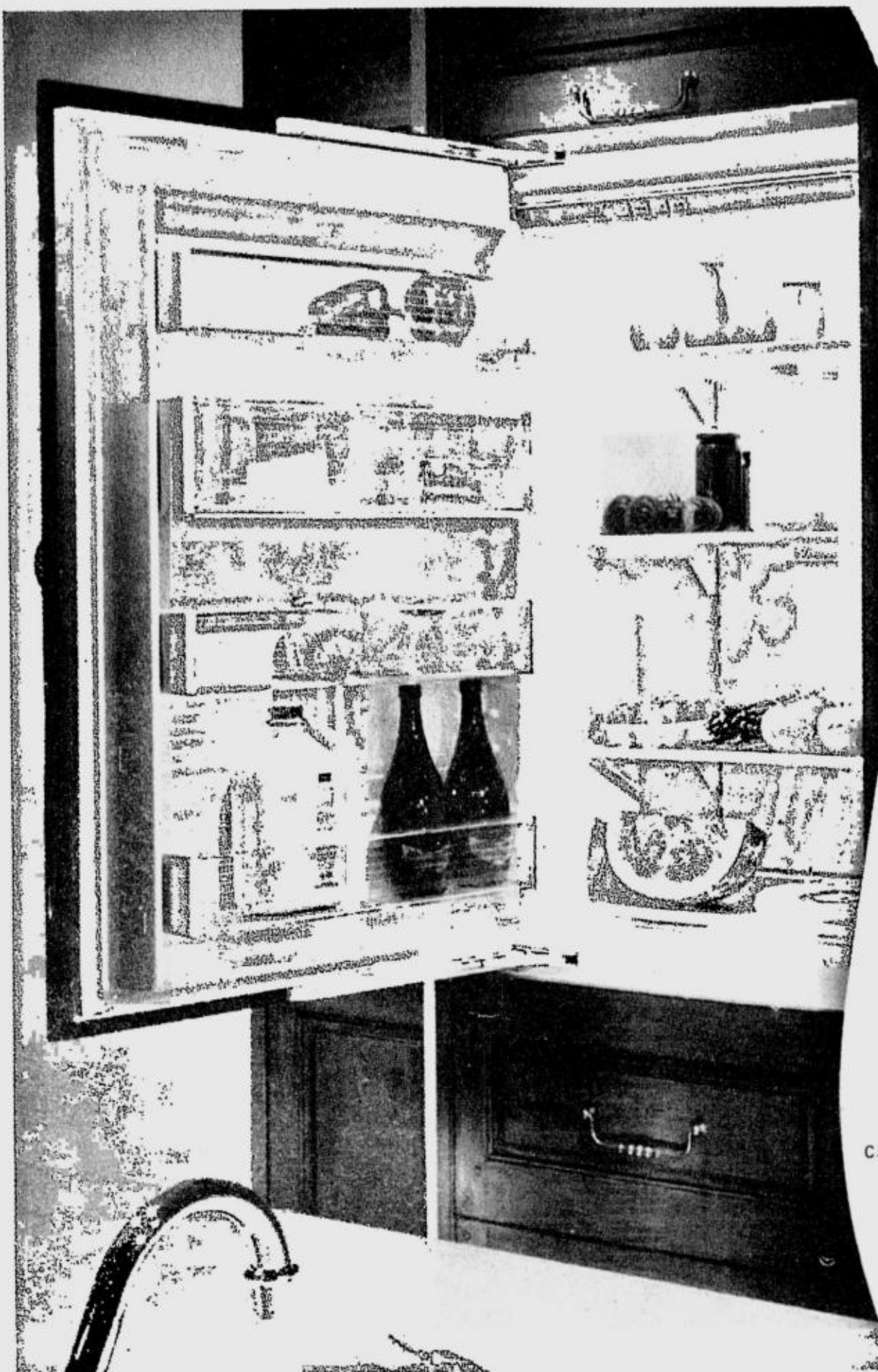
Visit your nearest authorized dealer.

at authorized dealer or SMART Telecenter for the easiest way to

MART zed or SMART Money SIM card with ₱100 of pre-loaded

Visit our SMART Swapping Stations in the following events:

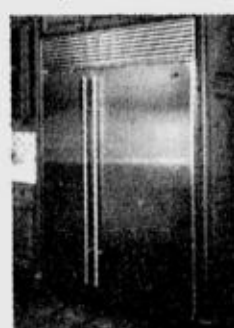
Date	Organizer	Event Title	Venue
February 16	U.P. Upsilon Fraternity	Escape: Mad Rushes 2.1	Makiling Botanical - U.P. Los Banos
February 17	MTV Philippines	Rebirth (MTV Launch)	NBC Tent, The Fort
February 16-17	Citylight Hotel	Bar Tour	Citylight Hotel - Baguio
February 16-17	18 BC Bar	Bar Tour	18 BC Bar - Baguio
February 17-25	Camp John Hay Development Corp.	Market Encounter Panagbenga 2001	Camp John Hay, Scout Hill Ballfield - Baguio
February 19-23	Riverside College	Riverside College Days	Riverside College Quadrangle - Bacolod
February 19-24	U.P. JPIA	U.P. JPIA Week "Involution"	U.P. Business Administration Bldg. - U.P. Diliman
February 19-24	J-Finex	Organization Week	St. Scholastica College, Manila
February 23-24	Gimbals	Bar Tour	Gimbals - Baguio
February 23-24	Cactus Bar	Bar Tour	Cactus Bar - Baguio



Integrate

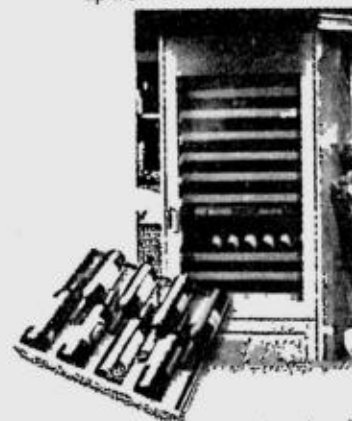
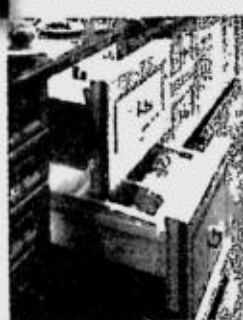
Blend form and function.

Introducing Sub-Zero Refrigerators.
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Now, refrigerators that are cramped and stick out in the kitchen are a thing of the past. Sub-Zero's built-in refrigerators blend with the over-all look --- creating unity of design like never before.

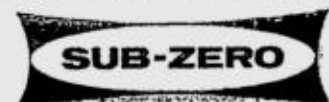
Enter the exclusive Sub-Zero dual refrigeration system. It keeps fresh food fresher and preserves frozen food longer because it has two separate, self-contained cooling systems. Your ice cubes never have to suffer the insult of odors picked up from the fresh food side.



Choose from our fabulous line of built-in, integrated, and undercounter refrigerators and freezers - and now, our superb new line of wine storage. Each is hand-built, quality-tested, to ensure that you receive the best refrigerators that money can buy.

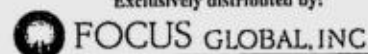
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MARK Wahlberg plays the lead singer of a heavy metal band in "Rock Star."

Company offers home videos and more

C INTERACTIVE Digital Entertainment started three years ago with PC and CD-ROM Games then expanded its product line to include home video. The company started as a distributor for Warner Bros. Now, C Interactive is extending its reach by obtaining video rights to some of the most popular Hollywood films. Their latest lineup includes Jennifer Lopez's "The Cell," and Kirsten Dunst's "Bring It On."

C Interactive, a division of D' Concorde Recording Corporation, is also the exclusive nationwide distributor of Regal Home Video, which includes films from Regal Films, Star Cinema, Millennium Films, MAQ and Good Harvest Productions. All videos are approved by the Videogram Regulatory Board and 100 percent original copies. Its clients include Astro Vision, Video City, ACA Video and other leading video stores and record bars.

Aside from Regal Home Video, C Interactive also releases VCD Karaoke from D' Concorde and BMG Music Video and CD-ROMS from Acclaim Entertainment, Electronic Arts and other popular games in the gaming world. Their most popular CD-ROM and PC Games are NBA Live, Ultima Ascension, Tiberian Sun, Final Fantasy 8 and 7, and Shadow Man.

if you're looking for a perfect Valentine's date, these lovely ladies are free.



Experience a perfect night of music as Vina, Geneva, and Agot sing their hearts out for you in a live and free concert. Listen to a mesmerizing medley of ballads, pop songs, and dance hits, all performed by these alluring divas.

Feb. 10 - Geneva Cruz, 5pm Activity Center
 Feb. 18 - Vina Morales, 5pm Activity Center
 Feb. 25 - Agot Isidro, 5pm Activity Center

To avail of priority seating, make reservations and collect receipts worth P500, and present them to the information booth located at the Activity Center from 10-4pm on the concert date itself. The first 100 Ayala Discount Card holders automatically get 1 free ticket. Only 500 seats available. For inquiries, please call 7750010-24. First come, first served.



A breath of fresh air

Sali na sa
Science Club!



JUNIOR INQUIRER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2001 ♦ 12 PAGES ♦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 19

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- My Life as a Trashcan Page 6
- Hello Kitty Café Page 9
- New cartoon! Page 11
- Shirley's Pets Page 12

WWW.INQUIRER.NET

Wahoo Science!

Check out the elementary school winners of the 1st Search for the Most Outstanding Science Clubs in the Philippines

THEY made project after project. They looked after each other and not just the environment. Most of all, they helped make science fun for those in their school and for others in their community too. That's why these three elementary schools emerged as national winners in the first Search for the Most Outstanding Science Clubs in the Philippines. Do have a look at what they did and maybe you can use some of their ideas in your own science clubs too.

Rarin' to Recycle

When school started last year, the science club members of Bonfal Pilot



101 PATANI. Bonfal students check out the growth of veggies in their garden.

Central School in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya decided they would do something about their community's garbage problem.

Led by their president, 12-year-old sixth-grader Asiah Llantada, they went door to door collecting their neighbors' kitchen waste. What they could recycle, they set aside while the biodegradable stuff was

turned into compost.

Some of the compost was used to fertilize the herbal and vegetable garden they also

tended in their school.

"When someone gets wounded, we just get malunggay leaves from the garden to treat the wound," says Asiah.

These science club members also collected plastic litter to turn into throw pillows. Empty bottles were gathered as well to raise club funds. During their school's Nutrition Month celebrations, this club took charge of all the preparations. Now there's a club that knows how to keep a healthy environment and a healthy body too.

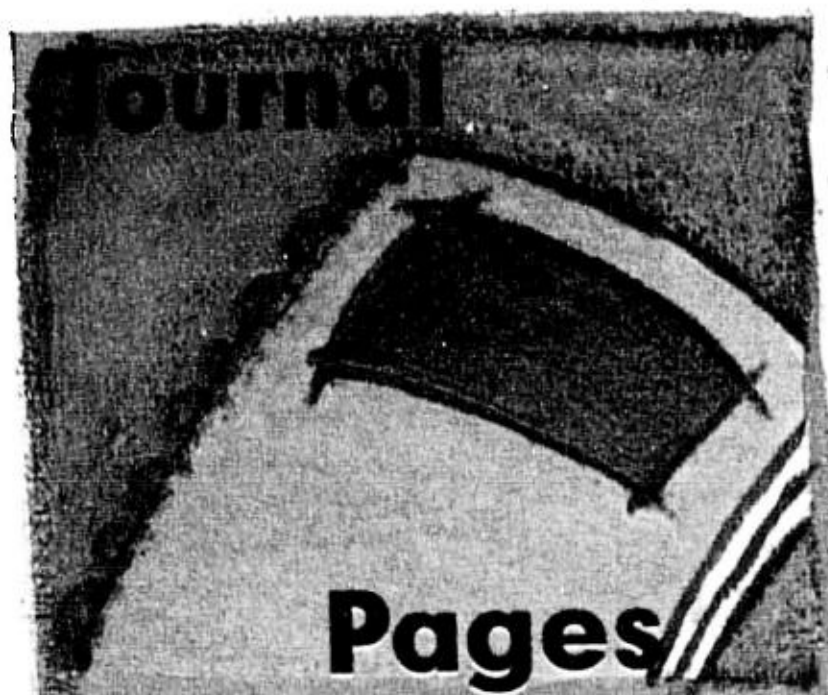
Saving Up for Science

They call themselves "D' Searchers"

Wahoo/p.5

DON'T SNEEZE! Looks like a tense moment as Bonfal pupils await the results of their experiment.

Photos courtesy of THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF YOUTH SCIENCE CLUBS



IT was another rainy day and I had nothing to do. I wanted to watch TV but there was no cable. I tried to play some computer games but after a couple of minutes, there was a blackout.

"What could I do for fun around here!" I shouted impatiently. I saw my sister busy with a coloring book. My mom was cross-stitching and my dad reading a book.

"Lucky they have something to do," I said.

Suddenly, the phone rang. I answered it, hoping that the call was mine. But it was not. I asked my mom (who thinks of the best ideas)

I hate rainy days!

BY KATHLEEN B. MACROHON
MIRIAM COLLEGE GRADE SCHOOL



what I could possibly do.

"Have you done your homework? If you haven't, you could finish it to pass your time,"

she said.

"Done it," I said with a hopeless face.

"Well then, you could just read a book."

It was a good idea. So I went to our library to find a good book to read. There was one book up at the top of the shelf. It was about a mystery that a 10-year-old girl solved.

I chose that book but it was way too high up. But I didn't care.

"It's better to eat mud sandwich than have nothing to do!" I said, though I didn't really know what I was saying.

I tried reaching for the book but I couldn't. I tried every way I could think of. Eventually, I was able to get it.

When I was about to open the book to the first page, the rain stopped and the sun came out from the dark clouds.

"Oh!—I really hate rainy days!"

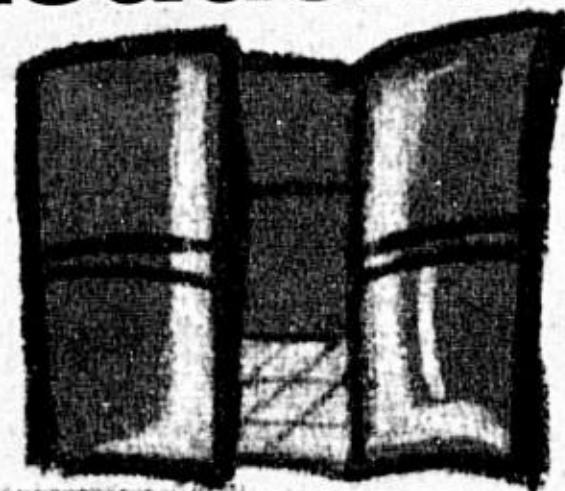
Sound Familiar?

Write down your thoughts now
and send them to JI. Who knows,
you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Picking on popularity

HAVE you ever watched the TV series "Popular"? It tells of the lives of the popular and the notorious in a high school in the United States. Sometimes I feel that it's the same thing in my school.

Here, popular students seem to rule over everything. Goody-two-shoes end up as teacher's pets; the notorious students break rules and pick on people who don't know what to do or those whom they think are weaklings. Smart students always get praised. Still, I believe that if you believe in yourself, if you think you can make a difference, you will succeed in anything your heart wishes to pursue.—VIVECA PETRINA AQUINO, Quezon City



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NATASHA VIZCARRA
Editor

LYNETT A. VILLARIBA
Design Consultant

CHRISTINE C. RIVERO
Writer

MARLET D. SALAZAR
Editorial Assistant

STEPHANIE BRAVO
Artist

ERNIE SAMBO
Graphics Designer

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WORLD SCOPE



S'that so?

A WOMAN speaks to a tuxedo-clad humanoid robot named S DOLL that can respond with gestures that imitate those you see in a normal conversation between two people. The S DOLL is made by leading robotics machinery manufacturer Kokoro Co. Ltd.

AP

Earth to ISS

SIXTH grade student Clifton DeLeon, 12, from George West Elementary School, asks a question of American astronaut William M. Shepherd who is onboard the International



Space Station. Holding the microphone is scout Bradley Henicke, 13, with the George West Boy Scouts troop 277, who made contact with the space shuttle via a ham radio, as it passed overhead, two weeks ago. Other students, including the two girls seated front, Jessie Harrod, 11, left, and Ashley Schilling, 11, right, behind Clifton are waiting their turn to ask their questions.

AP



Keeping an eye on you

AYA Maruyama, an employee at the Japanese toy maker Takara, smiles at a remote sensor called "Orusuban Eye" or house-monitoring eye. With this nifty new gadget, parents can keep an eye on what's happening at home even while they are away. The Orusuban Eye



can be placed in the kiddie playroom and it can also be used to check on the pets. Parents can then watch the image from any personal computer connected to the Internet. Before the end of this month, Takara hopes to use even cellphones to transmit images from the Orusuban Eye. The sensor is sold in Japan at 28,000 yen or around P12,000. AP

Cruelty to animals

GREG Autry gets a kiss from his puppy Loco at his home in this city. Loco, a dachshund-beagle mix, was kidnapped and returned five days later with his eyes gouged out and is now recovering from surgery. Loco is one of many victims of cruelty to animals, a crime that can range from extreme neglect to gruesome violence to even tripping a horse. AP



Contest

STUDENT MASS MEDIA AWARDS. The Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) will recognize outstanding student journalists and school publications. Join the 1st Student Catholic Mass Media Awards. The categories include: best short film (documentary or narrative), best student publication, best literary publication (magazine or folio), best news photo, best TV production (documentary or narrative) best radio production (documentary or narrative); and best public service ad. You can send your entries to CMMA Secretariat, 5/F, Dominga Bldg., Pasong Tamo, corner Dela Rosa St., Makati City. For more important info please call 812-1833, 867-4026, 892-4779.

Workshops

SUMMER

WRITING.

Public school students ages 11-16 can participate in a free writing workshop to be held by the Junior Writers'



Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Club this summer. Just prepare the following stuff for screening: a letter of intent, a clear photocopy of your school ID, your principal's or teacher's recommendation, and self-addressed stamped envelope. Mail these to: Junior Writers' Club, P.O. Box 355, PCPO, Pasay City, 1301. Deadline for submission is on March 25. Workshop begins on April.

JOLLIBEE KIDS. If you know how to sing, dance and act, join the Jollibee Kids workshop. After the workshop there will be a musical competition. For inquiries call up any of the following branches: Jollibee Grand Central, 363-5653; Caloocan-LRT, 361-7850; Royal Family Mall Malinta-Exit, 432-7065; Sta. Lucia Phase 1, 646-0321, Sta. Lucia Grand Mall, 681-5144, Greenwich Grand Central, 363-5134. Hurry, deadline for registration is until Feb. 28 only!

Museum Moments

"TALI-GALAW." In celebration of Arts Month, Roppets Production, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and Museo Pambata present the following educational puppets shows every Saturday at 10 a.m.: "Ipinaglaban ang Kalayaan" which highlights the events of the Filipinos' fight for freedom from the time of Lapu-Lapu to the Japanese occupation; "Mahal ko ang Kapaligiran" which teaches children love and care of the environment; and "Ibong Adarna," an adaptation of one of the most popular Filipino fairy tales. Catch them all at the Karapatan Hall of Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard, corner South Drive, Manila. For details call up 523-1798.

MUSIC FROM THE HEART. Museo Pambata and the Foundation for the Musical Filipino present a concert-recital of 30 young pianists for the children of Mithing Pangarap Foundation and Home for the Hungry Foundation at the Karapatan Hall of Museo Pambata today at 4 p.m.

Cable Picks

TASMANIAN TIGER. It's not your favorite Looney Tune character, it's the creature that was hunted down to extinction, or was it? Hopeful scientists search the forests, looking for shadows, paw prints or any proof that this mysterious marsupial still roams in the woods. "The Tasmanian Tiger" airs on National Geographic Channel on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m.

Wanna be a



JI correspondent?

WRITE an essay about your most amazing, weirdest, strangest daydream and send it to us on or before **March 5**.

Don't forget to include a piece of paper that has your name, age, address, contact number, school, e-mail address and parents' or guardian's names. Submit your essays typewritten and double-spaced on

short bond paper. Mail it to:

I wanna be a JI correspondent!

The Junior Inquirer
Philippine Daily Inquirer
P.O. Box 2353
Makati Central Post Office
1263 Makati City

Wahoo Science! (from page 1)

and last year, the science club members of Pinagkawitan Elementary School in Lipa City, Batangas, searched for ways to raise funds for their Science Room. They didn't stop there.

To make science more exciting for their other schoolmates, D' Searchers organized their own science camp and science fair. The kids also led a drug consciousness drive and a tree planting campaign while at the same time looking after the orchidarium and garden for medicinal herbs—called Science Medical Garden—in their school.

D' Searchers' president, 12-year-old Aprille de Castro, is real happy about the cash prize their club won as one of the national winners. "We can use it to buy more things for our Science Room and to have more projects like another science camp," she beams.

Buzz-Buzz-Busy as Bees

Sometimes he and his clubmates get stung by the bees they care for, but Jose Marco Davide, the 15-year-old vice president of the Colawin Researchers just shrugs it off. "We can just heal the sting with the honey we collect," he says.

Just like real researchers, the members of this science club from the Colawin Elementary School in Argao, Cebu, study the different ways of beekeeping and making honey. Their best products are then sold in a cooperative to raise funds for the club.

They also get funds from selling the banana chips and cheese curls the Researchers make themselves in their Nutri-Products Factory. "We use real yellow corn for the cheese curls," Jose tells us proudly.

Another project, Bahay Kubo 2000, encouraged club members and their parents to plant fruits and vegetables—like the ones mentioned in the "Bahay Kubo" song—in their backyard.

High school winners

Aside from these elementary

school clubs, three high school clubs were chosen as national winners too. They are the science club federation of Baguio City National High School, the Association of Science Clubs of Capiz National High School and the

Quirino General High School science club in Quirino Province. Capiz National High School also won top honors as the overall grand prize winner of the search.

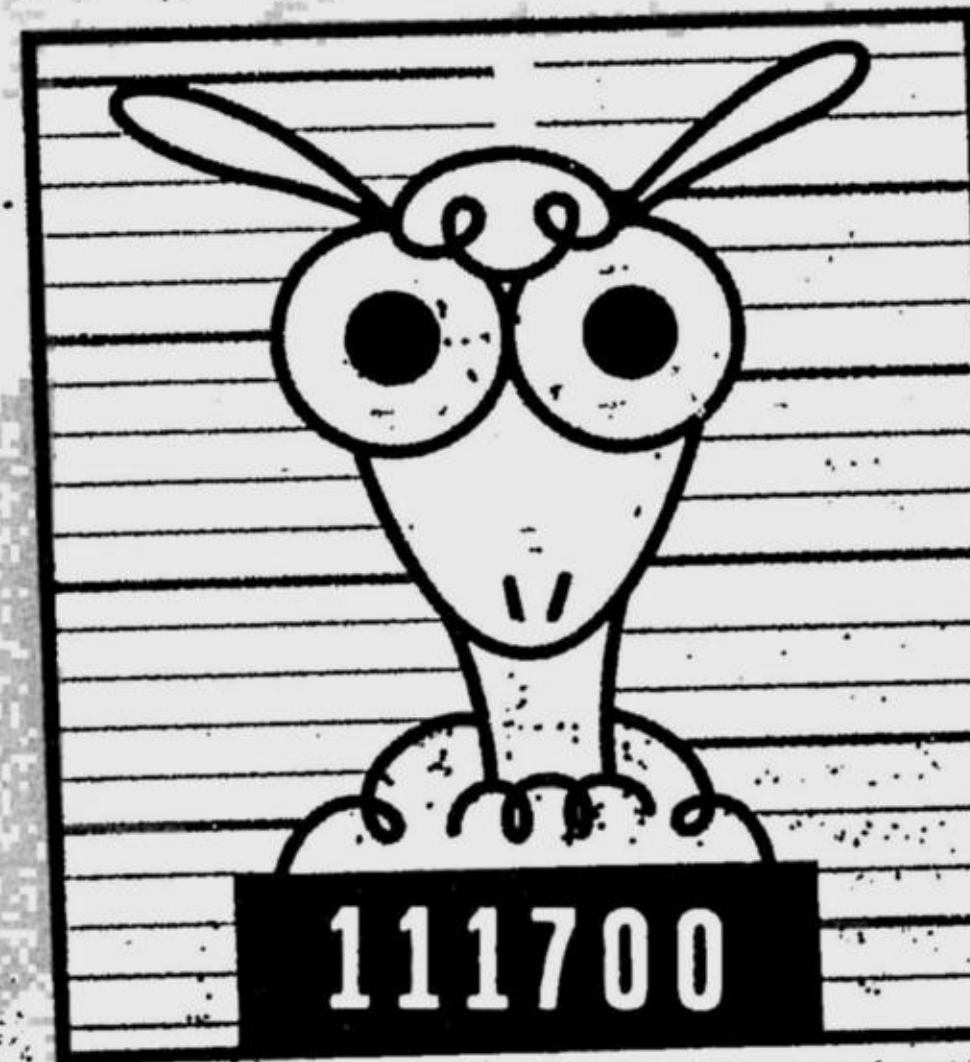
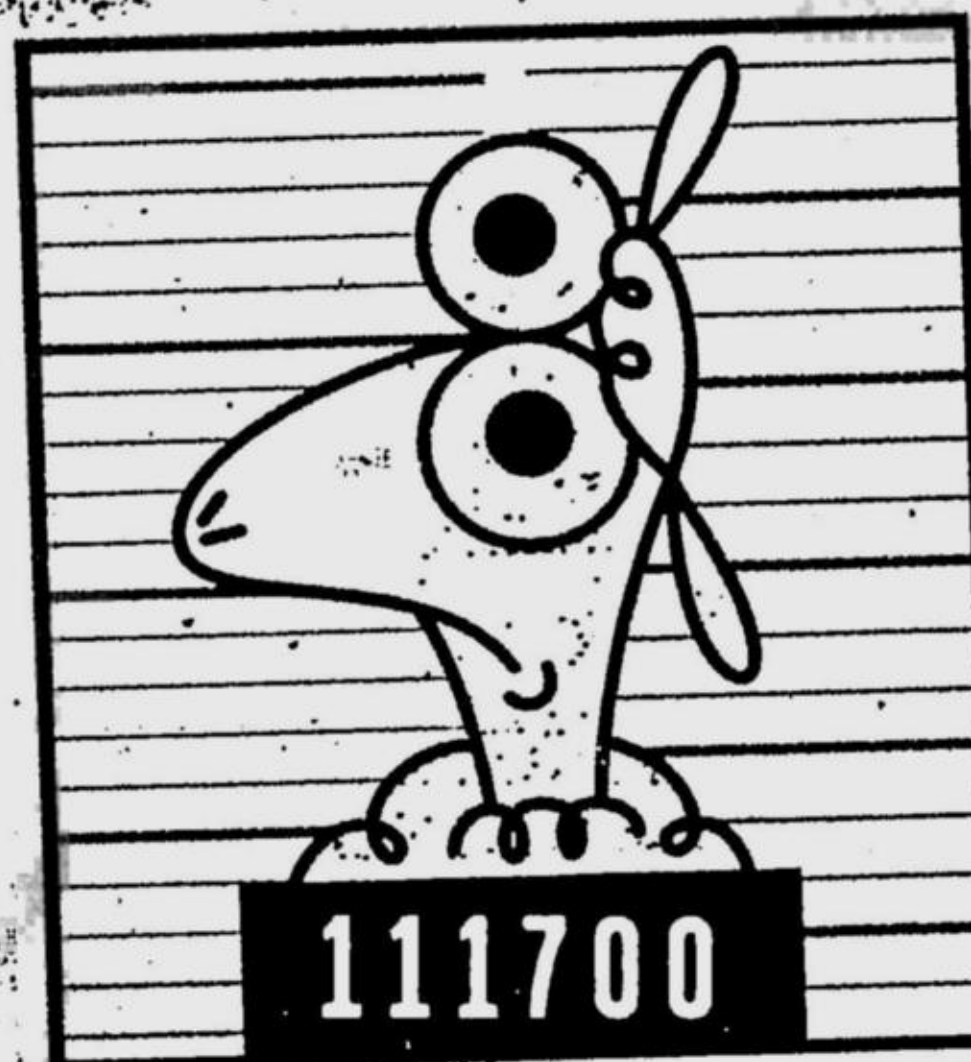
This Search for the Most Outstanding Science Clubs in the Phil-

ippines was organized by the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs in cooperation with the Science Club Advisers Association of the Philippines and the Department of Education Culture and Sports.

Christine C. Rivero

WANTED

BY THE TOP SECRET MILITARY ORGANIZATION



A SHEEP NAMED SHEEP

KNOWN ALIASES: Sheep UNKNOWN ALIASES: Unknown

Last seen lurking (well grazing actually) somewhere in the Big City.

Sheep is being sought for use in a superpowerful sheep-powered ray gun by us at the Top Secret Military Organization. I know that sounds weird but it's a really cool ray gun that can do all kinds of stuff and all! Any-hoo: If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Sheep, please contact me, General Specific, at the following address:

General Specific
C/O Top Secret Military Organization
594 Secret Military Road
(Next to Farmer John's)
The Big City, Big State 111700

**CARTOON
NETWORK**

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as a **trash can**

ON MONDAYS, Wednesdays, and Fridays I'm a trash can at the Coronado Springs in Florida. I start my day early when the visitors are still asleep. Only the staff and I am awake.

They bring me to the food market. I told the other trashcans to stand tall, keep clean and keep your covers on so flies don't come in and papers don't fly out. I sounded like a drill sergeant, I thought to myself.

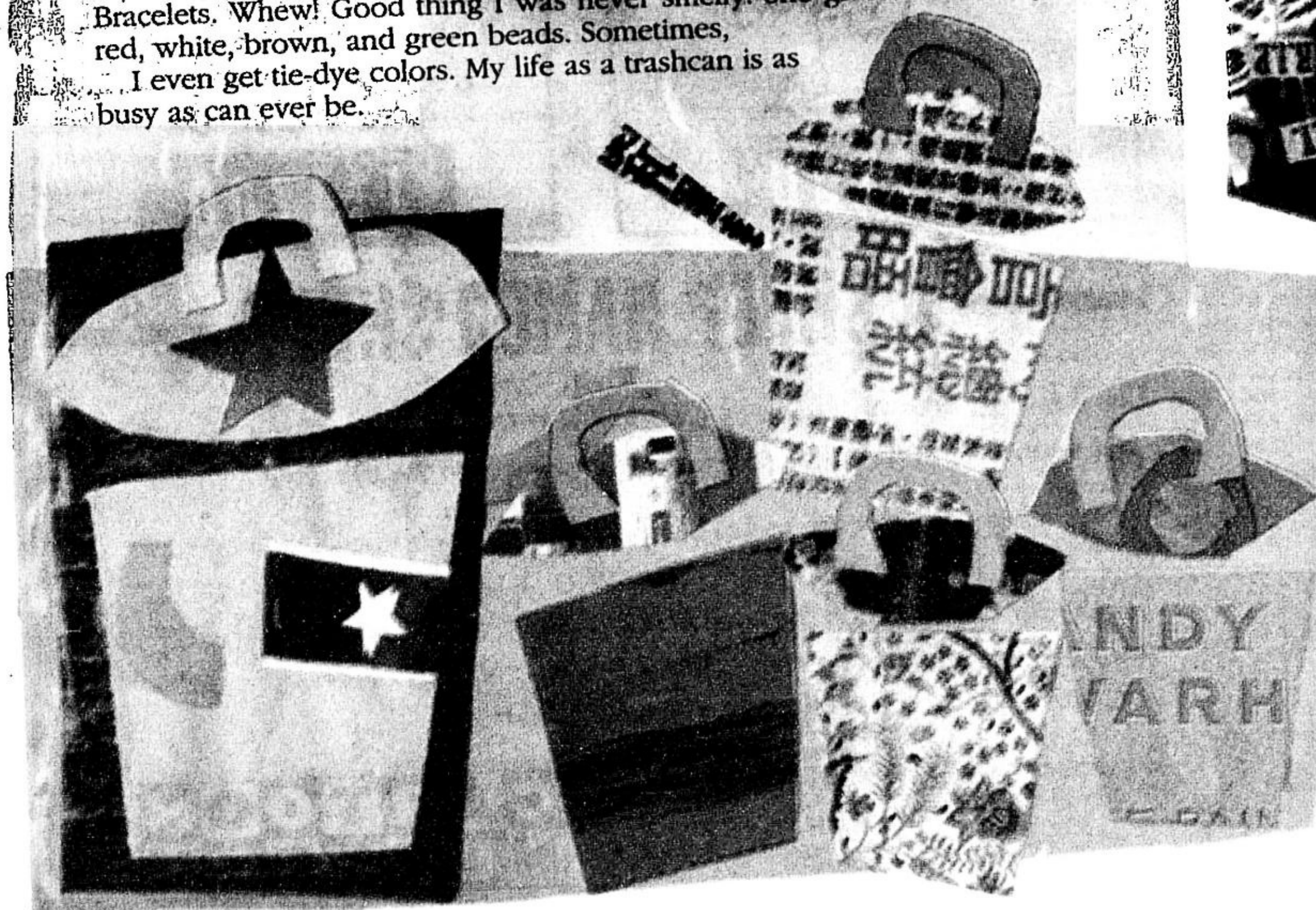
"Oh, and don't forget to remind people not to put recycling in you," I say to the other trashcans. "Make it clear. Say, 'Sorry but I'm a trashcan not a recycling bin!'"

To tell you the truth, I mostly hope people will come to me because of my rainbow colored cover.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays I'm a trashcan for an author named Debbie Dadey. She wrote "The Bailey School Kids." Boy, do I hate it when she leaves the shades up when it's hot! I love it when she throws away her drafts and I read them. After a while though, she stopped using me. Must be all those computer stuff.

On the 30th day of March last year, I was sold to a woman who made Power Bracelets. Whew! Good thing I was never smelly. She gives me blue, purple, red, white, brown, and green beads. Sometimes,

I even get tie-dye colors. My life as a trashcan is as busy as can ever be.



TEXT BY
JESSICA D. BOLANDRINA
ART BY
JASON MOSS

CALL ME A FILIPINO- AMERICAN

I see red, white and blue
I see stripes, three stars and a bright sun too.
It doesn't sound like much,
But I'm a Filipino-American and its true.

I look in the mirror and what do I see?
A happy Filipino-American, hey, it's me!
I love the blazing hot sun at the beaches of Bohol but...
I also love sledding down snow-covered hills.

I like eating cheeseburgers but...
I also like eating *puto*.
I can do the macarena but someday
I would like to dance the Tinikling.

I can sing in English and some Tagalog in my Boston accent
I play the piano well and learning the *banduria* is really swell.
I'm comfortable in jeans, but I bet you can tell it's still me
When I'm in my green Maria Clara

All in all I am me, a happy Filipino American with my family.

from New York, Boston,
San Francisco, Los Angeles,
Toronto, Vancouver, Miami, Rio de
Janeiro, Chicago, Seoul, Viet
nam, and

Jessica, a
Grade 4 student
at the Milford
Catholic
Elementary
school, lives with
her family in
Massachusetts,
USA. She skates,
plays the piano
and dances quite
well.

Jason is a
freelance artist,
painter and
illustrator. His
fifth one-man
show
"Legerdemain" is
now open at the
West Gallery,
Glorietta 4, Level
3, Makati City.
Show runs till
Feb. 27.

All the creatures great and small...

Mark Christian Ilano loves them best of all

ASK any member of the Ilano family about Mark and they'll all say the same thing—"Mark REALLY loves animals."

"Every time we go out, instead of shopping, he wants to go to a pet store," says his *lola*.

"He saves his allowance to buy more pets," his *lolo* beams.

"He's really the one taking care of the animals," his mom says. "Every morning, after school and at night, he goes out and checks on his pets."

"At home, all the animals sometimes get inside the house," chuckles his dad, "anyway, no one gets mad. I love animals too!"

And his older sister Cristel wails, "He's turning our house into a zoo!!!"

Although he's the youngest in the family, 9-year-old Mark Christian Ilano is in charge of looking after all the pets at home. They include three dogs and three kittens, a pond full of goldfish, some hamsters and a handful of ducklings. He's also taken care of chicks, rabbits, and pigeons. Sometimes, he cares for insects like grasshoppers and butterflies too. "I put them in a jar and feed them until they get bigger," he says.

Once, Mark found a caterpillar. He placed it in a jar and fed it "some stuff from the garden" every day. "Then it got bigger," he grins, "and it became a butterfly." Because he knew the butterfly could no longer live in his jar, Mark happily let it go.

When he's not out feeding and playing with his pets, Mark reads about how to care for animals from an encyclopedia. Even when he watches TV, he looks for programs where he can learn about animal behavior. "I want to be a veterinarian," he explains.



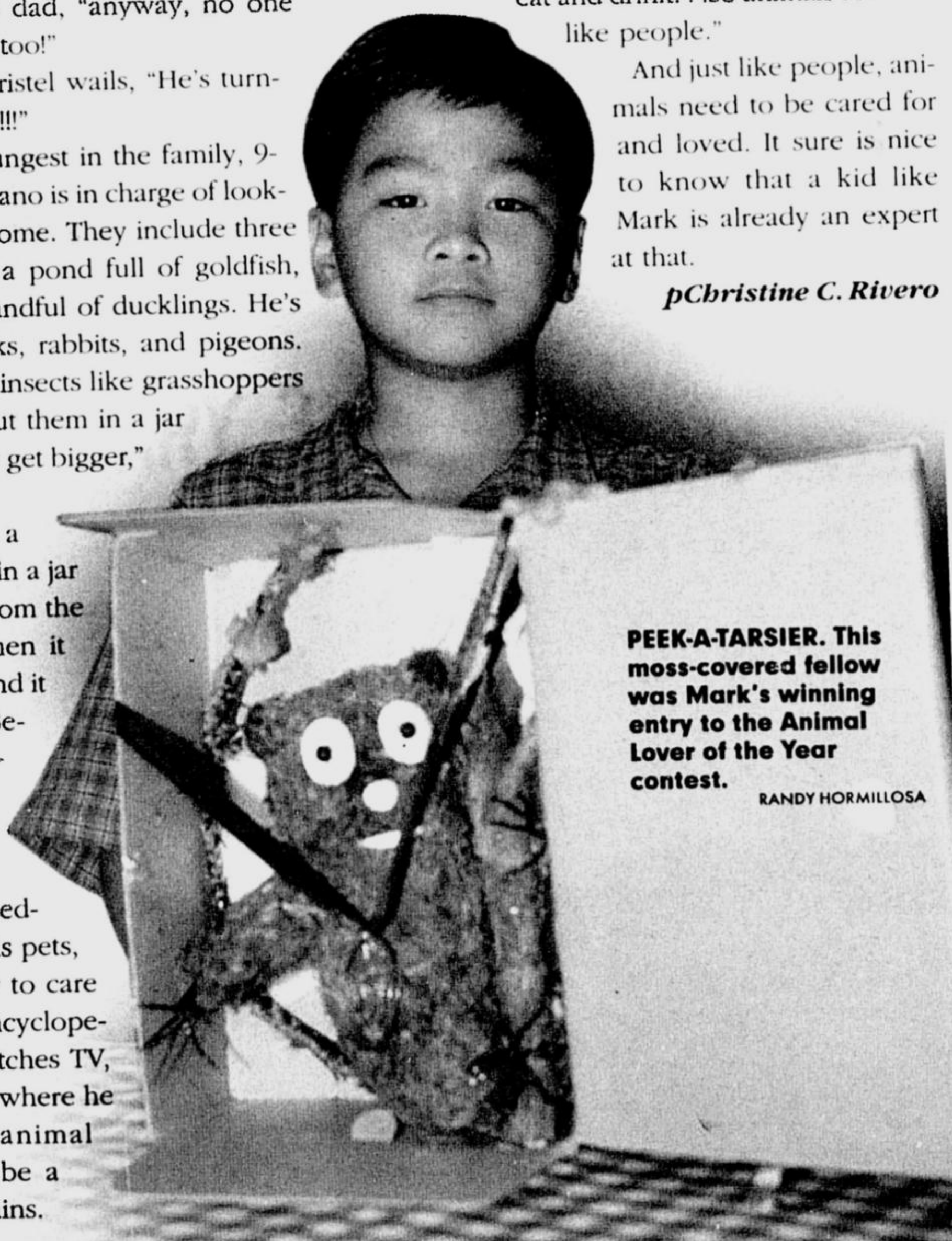
Mark says he first learned to love animals when he was in Grade 1. "We had plenty of animals in the farm," he recounts, "horses, carabaos and pigs. It was nice to stay with them (because) they were nice to touch."

Now Mark is in third grade and, recently, this student at Paref-Southridge School was chosen as one of the winners of the search for the Animal Lover of the Year 2000.

Animals are really no different from people, according to Mark. "We're all animals," he says, "we eat and drink...so animals are also like people."

And just like people, animals need to be cared for and loved. It sure is nice to know that a kid like Mark is already an expert at that.

pChristine C. Rivero



R RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rific nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at _____

and studies at _____

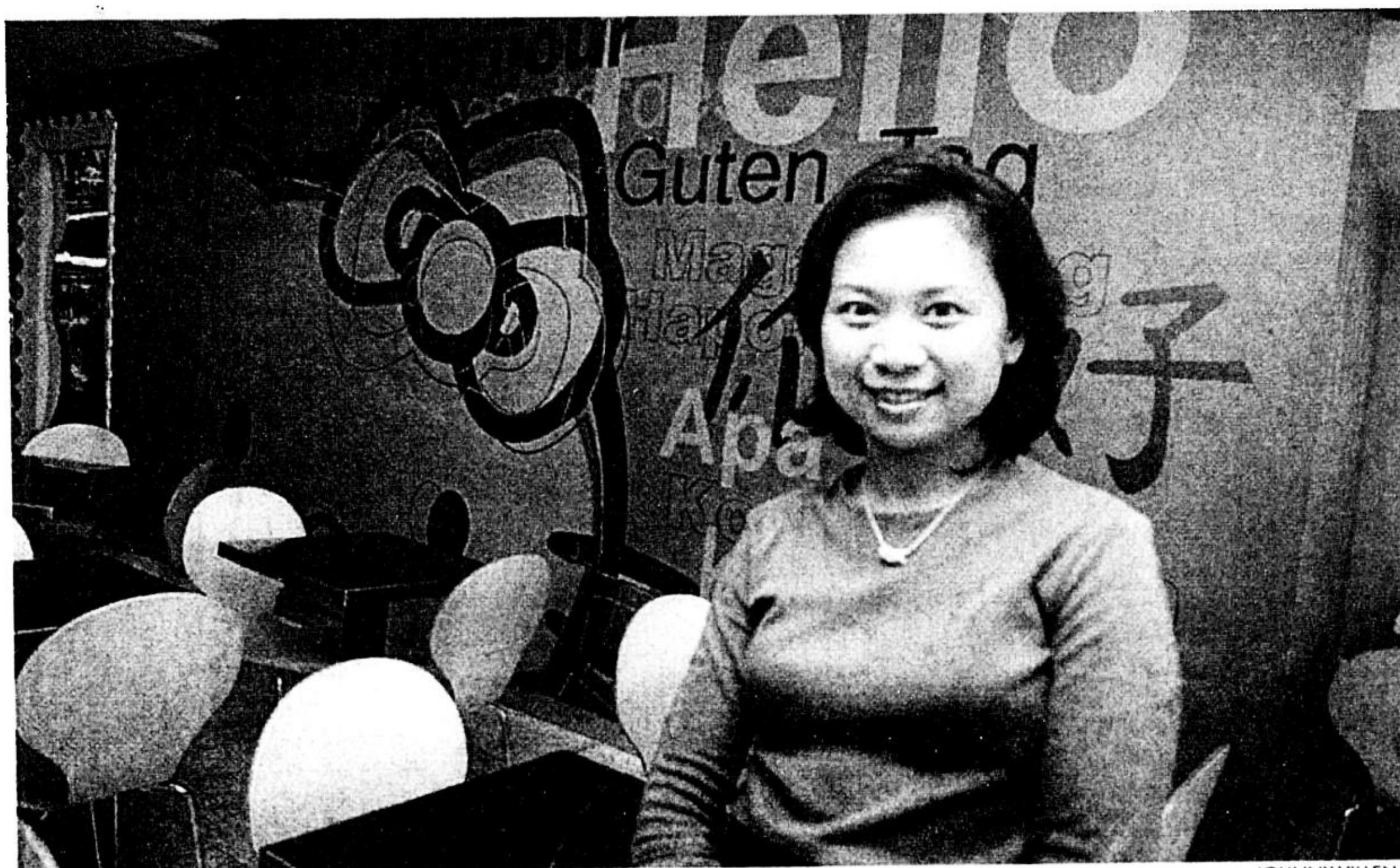
Her/his contact number is: _____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No. _____



JOHNNY VILLENA

MMM-MEOW! Sheila would like to invite everyone to try the 'kitty-fied' goodies at the café.

A Purr-fect Company

Sheila Ramos keeps things fresh, fast and fun at the first Hello Kitty Café in the country

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

MAYBE she'll have a big pink ribbon in her hair, we wondered as we made our way to SM Megamall. Maybe she'll have a 'Kitty bag, a 'Kitty hanky and other 'Kitty things. Maybe, we thought as we neared the Hello Kitty Café, she'll even come dressed as Hello Kitty!

The lady who met us at the café, though, didn't look anything like a cuddly white Sanrio cat. Instead, Sheila Ramos turned out to be a perky smartly dressed mom who laughs easily and smiles a lot. In a real cheery way, she told us how she became the owner of the Hello Kitty Café.

"Actually, Sanrio is distributed by my husband's family," she says, explaining how she got into the

business, "but ever since I was a kid, I've always been surrounded by Hello Kitty." With a grin, Sheila adds, "My mom used to take me to Gift Gate a lot."

Sheila started working with her husband on the Tokyo Tokyo restaurant chain. Then, during a trip to Hong Kong, she spotted a Hello Kitty Café. It was an idea she decided to take back home. "There weren't many places here where kids could be entertained as they eat," she says, "so we thought, why not experiment on that?"

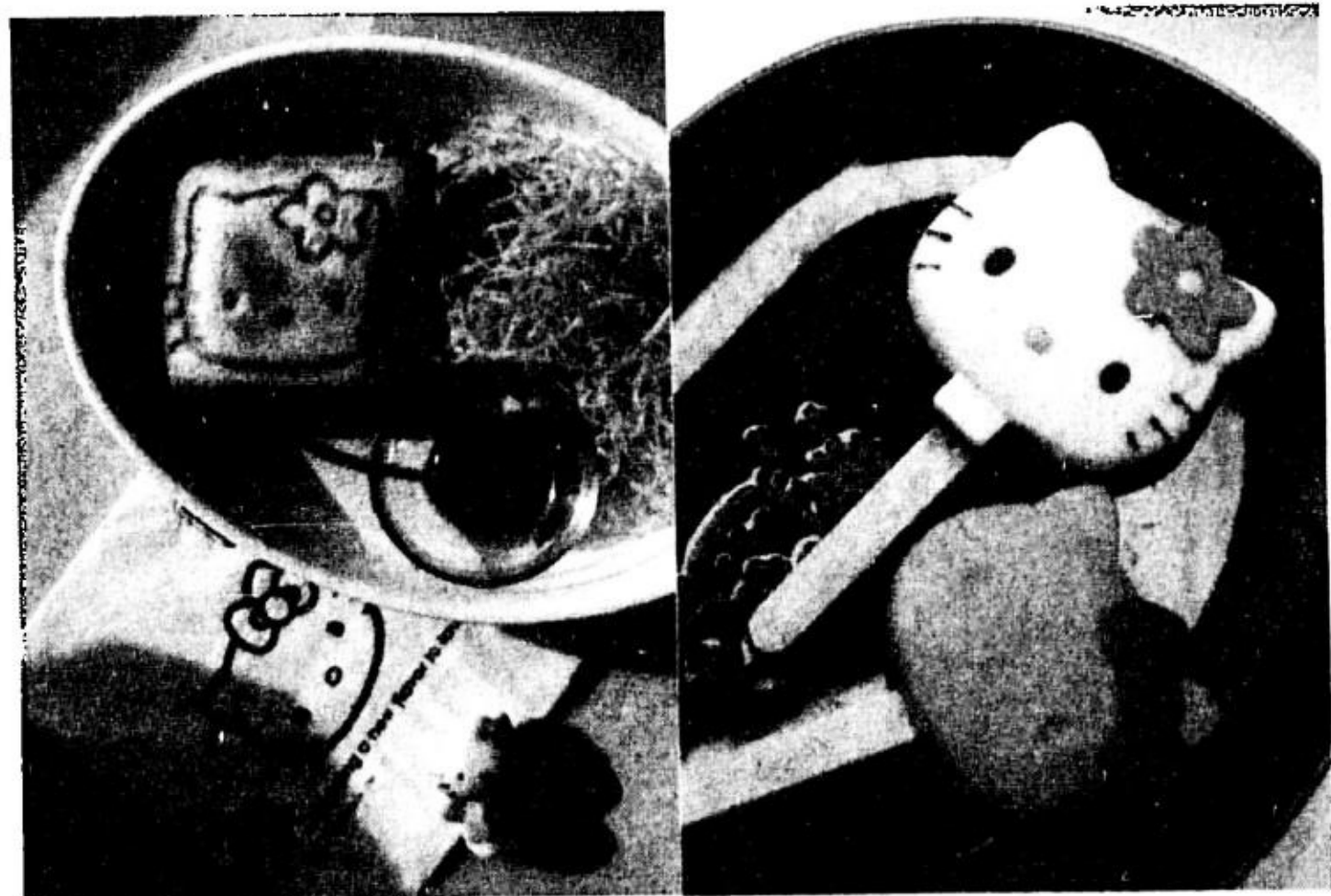
Here comes the 'Kitty'!

Sheila soon took charge of everything from planning the food to designing the café. After the café opened, she would also be at the kitchen, tasting the sauces and making sure everything from the Hello Kitty-stamped burger buns to the kitty-shaped pasta were always 100-percent purr-fect every day. Entire families and *barkadas* have trooped to the Hello Kitty Café since then.

At home, Sheila says, if she had her way, she would totally 'kittify' her house. "But I have sons, *eh!*" she reveals, laughing, "They can't quite identify with 'Kitty.' They just like the food (at the café)."

Just the same, it amazes Sheila how popular Hello Kitty still is. "Hello Kitty was hot when I was 10. Now I'm 33 and she continues to be a trendsetter!" she exclaims.

On the future of Hello Kitty Café, Sheila says, "I'll try to keep everything as new as I can so when you come here, you'll always have fun. It will continue to be a special treat for you."



KITTY-YUM. Toasties and sweets are adorable enough to eat.



Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____

He/She is _____ years old and is

my _____

Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

and _____

5) _____

My nominee lives at _____

Give him/her a call at _____

_____ or send him/

her an e-mail _____

at _____

By the way, I'm _____

I'm _____ years old.

My address is _____

You may call me at _____

Thinkathon?

BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Vitamin Blitz

DO you know your vitamins and the diseases or deficiencies they prevent? Take this matching-type test and find out if you have enough dose of knowledge of these vital substances.

- ___ 1. Vitamin A
- ___ 2. Vitamin B1 (Thiamine)
- ___ 3. Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin)

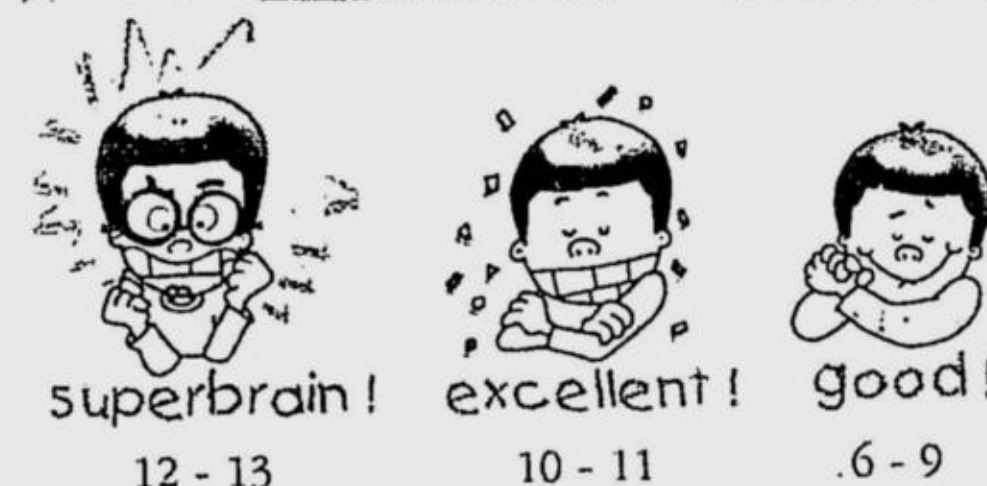
- ___ 4. Vitamin B3 (Niacin)
- ___ 5. Vitamin B5 (Pantothenic Acid)
- ___ 6. Vitamin B6 (Pyridoxine)
- ___ 7. Vitamin B12 (Cobalamine)
- ___ 8. Biotin
- ___ 9. Vitamin C (Ascorbic Acid)
- ___ 10. Folic Acid
- ___ 11. Vitamin D
- ___ 12. Vitamin E
- ___ 13. Vitamin K

- A. Scurvy
- B. Beri-beri
- C. Pernicious anemia
- D. Fatigue, loss of coordination
- E. Ricketts
- F. Anemia (possibly)
- G. Night blindness, extremely dry skin
- H. Depression, nausea
- I. Pellagra
- J. Convulsions, irritability, kidney stones
- K. Uncontrolled bleeding
- L. Diarrhea
- M. Eye irritation, inflammation of skin cells

Answers

- | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 1. G | 2. B | 3. M | 4. I | 5. D | 6. J | 7. C |
| 8. H | 9. A | 10. L | 11. E | 12. F | 13. K | |

Ratings



Erratum: In "Are You A Whiz Kid? - Part 2" (07 Feb 2001), the subject heading of Question No. 11 should have been "Genuis" (not "Philosophy") and the correct answer "William James Siddis" (not "Immanuel Kant"). Our apologies for the mix-up.



New!

A Hit in Sheep's Clothing!

"Sheep in the Big City" premieres in Cartoon Network this month

DON'T you find it weird that you sometimes have to scramble for the remote control with your older brother, your mom or even your *lolo* to watch cartoons? Whatever happened to the good old days when cartoons were just for kids?

Anyway, here's a new release from Cartoon Network, which they say will delight young and old alike.

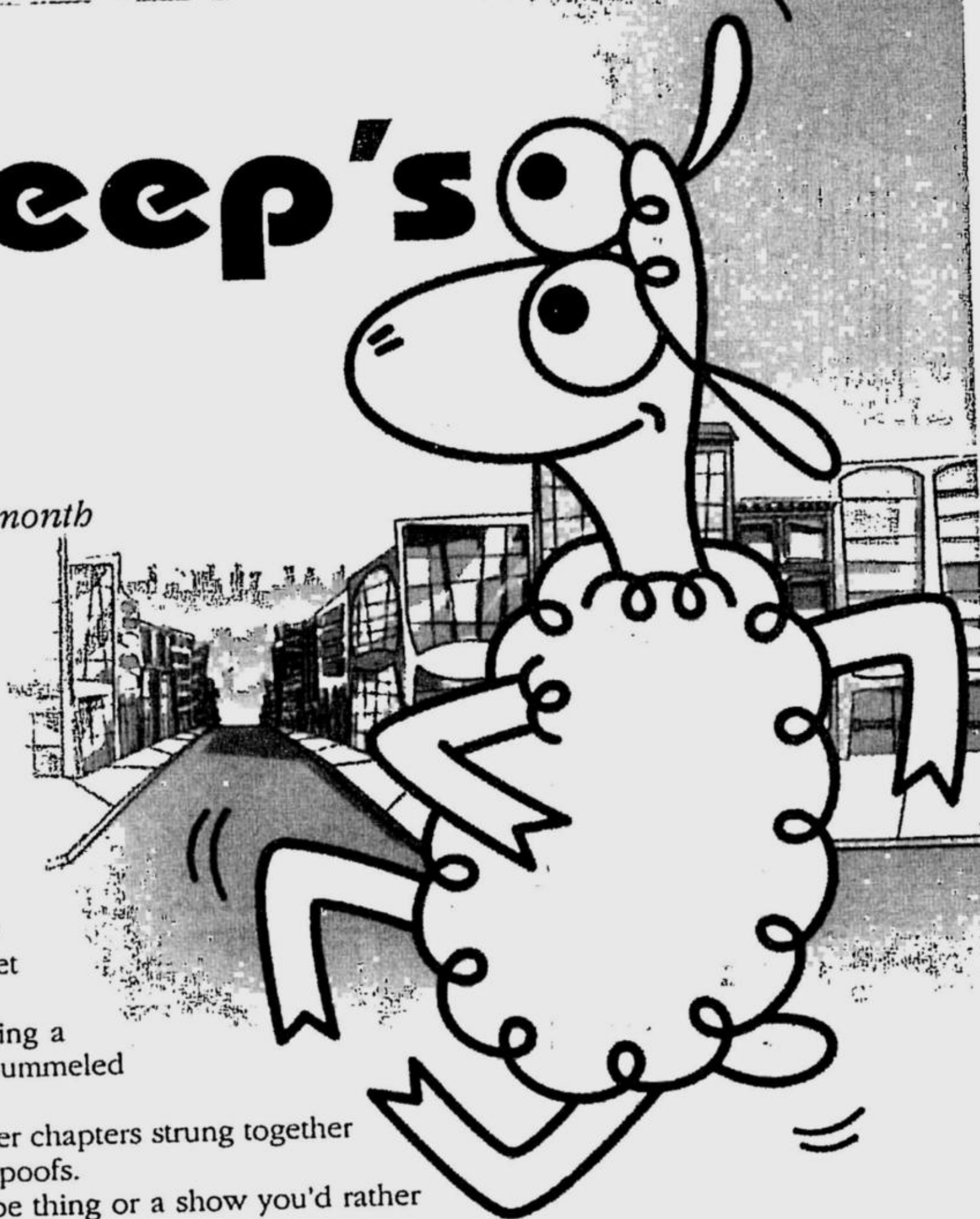
This month, Cartoon Network will premier its ninth original half-hour animated series, "Sheep in the Big City." Created by Mo Willems, "Sheep in the Big City" chronicles the sardonically perilous adventures of a sheep's attempt to make it in a new town.

"Sheep in the Big City" is about a sheep, named Sheep, who runs away from the farm and hides out in the big city because a Top Secret Military Organization is after him.

Sheep faces problems any urban-dweller can relate to, like finding a nice apartment, balancing work and social life, and avoiding being pummeled by a rich socialite with a stainless steel wig.

Each half-hour of "Sheep in the Big City" is broken into cliffhanger chapters strung together by an omnipresent narrator, satirical skits and commercial and TV spoofs.

Check it out and see if it is a certified kiddie-cartoon, a *kuya*-type thing or a show you'd rather leave to *nanay* and *tatay*. **Natasha Vizcarra**



Meet the characters

Sheep

With a formal education limited to grazing and a vocabulary that consists simply of bleating "Baaaa!" it's hard to imagine how Sheep gets in the Big City. But get by he does, surviving on his wits and his wool, which he uses in wonderful ways to stay free. That said, an average day for Sheep in the Big City includes

being run down by traffic, falling in and out of the clutches of General Specific, falling in love with Swanky the poodle and being on the receiving end of a beating from Swanky's owner. It isn't easy being Sheep, but it's never dull.



Farmer John

He can't believe his little Sheepy-Weepy has fallen out of the fold. A nurturing, caring kind of guy, Farmer John wants Sheep back and he wants him back bad. How can he have closure without knowing that Sheep is safe and sound? He can't understand why Sheep has chosen the Big City and a career in telemarketing over the farm and the weekly group therapy sessions. Farmer John wanders the streets



of Big City searching for his lost Sheep.

General Specific

The top gun of a Secret Military Organization, his only goal is to capture Sheep and put him to use as the final component of his Sheep-powered ray gun. Surrounded by a rank of underling, like Private Public and Major Pain, who he considers incompetent, the General is constantly on the brink of blowing his top. In general, he marches around with his teeth and fists clenched. The only thing that can take his mind off his troubles is a lovely lady. The wooly beauty that turns out to be Sheep all prettied up.



visit shirley and her pets at www.shirleypets.cheesedip.com

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

